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LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1840.

REVIEWS

An Inquiry into the Origin of the Antiquities of America. By John Delafield, Jun. With an Appendix, containing notes, and 'A View of the Causes of the Superiority of the Men of the Northern over those of the Southern Hemisphere.' By J. Lahey, M.D. 4to, Cincinnati, Burgess & Co.; London, Wiley & Putnam.

The subject of American antiquities is but little understood in Europe. Even the Mexican or Teotihuacan monuments have been but imperfectly made known to us; and the remains of the race of men who are believed to have left traces of a high degree of civilization in the wilds of the Ohio and the Mississippi, are only beginning to attract notice from the casual mention of a few enterprising travellers. We are glad to find that the subject has engaged the attention of the Historical Society of Ohio. The work before us is a contribution from one of its members; and though a speculative essay, rather than a description, it contains information which may interest our readers. We shall therefore give an abstract of such facts as are thought to justify the belief that a civilized nation had possessed North America before the discovery of Columbus.

Vestiges of tumuli, fortified encampments, mounds and trenches, are found in Western America as far north as the range of the buffalo; their western limit is not known; but on the south they extend through the Isthmus of Darien to Peru. They vary in construction according to the nature of the soil; in the north they are principally built of earth, but on approaching the Cordilleras are found to serve as bases for massive stone edifices now in ruins. A fortress at Marietta, and another at the mouth of the Great Miami, are described, by competent persons, as constructed with considerable engineering skill. Such works, it is manifest, could not have been raised by the Indians discovered on the Ohio, who were mere untutored savages, unacquainted with any useful arts save those of the rudest manufacture and most simple necessity. They were also divided into small tribes, having little or no connexion with each other, while there is strong evidence for believing that those who erected these monuments formed one people. The larger camps are constructed near water-courses, and at intervals along the streams tumuli have been raised, which would be visible one from the other were the country cleared of its present forest. Mr. Delafield indeed, states, as the result of personal examination, that "a map of North America, delineating each of these ruins *in situ*, would exhibit a connexion between the various groups of ancient walls, by means of intermediate mounds, a signal on which by fire or otherwise would transmit with ease and telegraphic despatch the announcement of hostile approach or a call for assistance." Garcilasso de la Vega informs us that such a practice was common among the ancient Peruvians, and that a regular system of telegraphic signals was established throughout the empire of the Incas. These encampments, however, were assuredly not all constructed for military purposes. The structure at Circleville, according to General Harrison, could not have been a fortress. "The square," he says, "has such a number of gateways as seem intended to facilitate the entrance of those who would attack it. And both it and the circle were commanded by the mound, rendering it an easier task to take than to defend it." Several of the locations indeed are believed to have been chosen with reference to the fitness of the soil for cultivation;

and it is still more extraordinary to hear that others have been selected with reference to the facility of procuring and manufacturing metals. Mr. Delafield informs us that,—

"In Liberty township, Washington county, Ohio, are yet to be seen twenty or thirty rude furnaces, built of stone, with hearths of clay, containing pieces of stone-coal and cinder, perhaps used in smelting ore. Large trees are still growing on them and attest their age. They stand in the midst of a rich body of iron ore, and in a wild hilly and rough part of the country, better adapted to manufactures than to agriculture."

Again it is quite certain that some of these tumuli were sepulchral; bones and what would appear to be funeral relics, having frequently been found in them. One, called the "Mammoth Mound," situated near Elizabeth town in Virginia, was opened in March last, and since Mr. Delafield's work was printed. The workmen commenced at the north wing. They cut an arched tunnel or entrance ten feet high, seven wide, and one hundred and eleven in length, when they struck on the mouth of a vault. This vault was found to be seven feet high, and in length eight by twelve feet, north and south. After commencing the tunnel the first thing observed was the appearance of charcoal, with fragments of burnt bones, traces of which continued to the entrance of the vault. Within fourteen feet of the mouth of the vault they struck on the original entrance or passage, descending like the entrance of a cellar, apparently supported by timbers. Within this vault were found two skeletons; the first nearly perfect—not one tooth missing—supposed to have been placed erect, but it had fallen near the wall, and been preserved by the sand which had crumbled over it. On the opposite side lay another skeleton, the bones much broken. With the latter were found 650 ivory beads, and near the breast an ivory ornament of peculiar construction, about six inches in length. From the centre of this vault they proceeded to cut or excavate an opening eleven feet in diameter, to the top, a distance of sixty-three feet. After proceeding about half way, they struck on another vault, eight feet by eighteen, east and west. In this were found one skeleton and its trinkets, consisting of 1,700 ivory beads, five hundred sea-shells, one hundred and fifty pieces of isinglass, and five copper bands, worn round the wrist, weighing seventeen ounces; also a small stone, about two inches in length and one and a half in width, with marks resembling letters and figures, and several other small trinkets. This is an abridged description of one furnished by the proprietors of the mound, who have fitted it up as a sort of museum, and made an exhibition of it; and it corresponds very exactly with the few particulars known of the discoveries made some years since at Teotihuacan, when the great pyramid of Cholula was cut through to make the road from Mexico to Puebla: a square chamber was then discovered in the interior, built of stone, and supported by beams of cypress wood, and containing two skeletons and a number of vases.

As all our readers may not be aware of the grandeur of some of these southern monuments, we will quote Humboldt's account of the *teocalli* of Cholula, the pyramid just referred to.

"At a distance it has the appearance of a natural hill, covered with vegetation. It appears four stories all of equal height. It appears to have been constructed exactly in the direction of the four cardinal points. The base of this pyramid is twice as broad as that of Cheops in Egypt, but its height is very little more than that of Mycerinus.* On comparing the dimensions of the House of the Sun, in Peru, with those of the pyramid of Cholula, we see that the people who constructed these remarkable monuments intended to

give them the same height, but with a basis of length in proportion of one to two. The pyramid of Cholula is built of unburnt brick alternating with layers of clay."

In a work lately published, General Dearborn mentions that the mounds are so numerous in the neighbourhood of Rock river, that he there examined groups or collections of them *at thirteen places, within a distance of fifteen miles. They were from seven to forty-three in number, at the various locations, and extended along the bank at some points for more than half a mile. They extend from near the mouth of Rock river, through Illinois, far into Wisconsin territory, showing how densely that region must have been populated some 500 or 5,000 years since.*

Whoever were the architects of these works, nothing, it is said, can be plainer than the remote antiquity of the works themselves. The sites of those on the Ohio present precisely the same appearance as the circumjacent forest; they have all the same beautiful variety of trees. This is particularly the case on the fifteen acres included within the walls of the work at the mouth of the Great Miami, already mentioned; and General Harrison adds, "the relative proportions of the different kinds of timber are about the same." Now, American experience has shown, that the first growth of timber on the same kind of land, once cleared, is almost homogeneous, limited to one or two, or at most three kinds of trees. On ground that has been cultivated the yellow locust will spring up as thick as garden peas; on ground that has not been cultivated the black and white walnut will prevail. Conformity of foliage in the American woods is considered as proof, that the clump or grove is of more recent formation than the rest of the forest. When, in the course of ages, the first occupants of the soil are thinned by the lightning, the tempest, disease or gradual decay, seeds belonging to another family of trees, find shelter and appropriate nutriment in the decaying roots, and the soil is found to yield it a more liberal support than it affords to the scions of the former tenant. But this process requires centuries; it would not be easy to assign the length of time necessary for a denuded tract of land to go through the several successive processes necessary again to cover it with the amazing variety of foliage which characterizes the forests on the Ohio.

From facts we must now come to speculations far less satisfactory, and to the question, to illustrate which Mr. Delafield's book was written.—Whence came the ancient people by whom these structures were raised? From Asia, is the old and received opinion; and Humboldt believed that he had adduced proofs sufficient to show that a connexion must formerly have existed between the people inhabiting these separate continents. But Mr. Delafield goes much further, and undertakes to prove not only whence they came, but who they were. His theory is briefly this:—on the apportionment of the various descendants of Noah, in the days of Peleg, the sons of Chus went off in a disorderly manner, and after long wandering seized on the region which had fallen to the lot of Assur, on the plains of Shinar. There, under Nimrod, they increased greatly in strength and numbers. After the confusion of tongues and their consequent dispersion, a very large body betook themselves to Egypt, and are commemorated under the name of "the Shepherds;" and there they constructed, as in Chaldea, large cities, and the pyramids, obelisks, and great monuments which yet remain to bear testimony to their magnificence and power. At length the natives of Upper Egypt rose in opposition, defeated them, and forced them to leave the country. "Early writers," says Mr. Delafield, "notice the journeys of

* The length of the base is 1,423 feet, and it is 177 feet high.

this banished race in a north-easterly direction, as far as Palestine. Here all historical traces are lost of them, and their name is buried in oblivion;" and here Mr. Delafield takes up the subject.

"Chus or Cush," says Mr. Delafield, "was also called Cuth, and his posterity Cuthians or Cuthites; the name, in process of time, received the prefix of the Greek Σ, and they were then termed "Σχύθαι," or Scythians. We learn from Epiphanius that "those nations which reach southward from that part of the world where the two great continents of Europe and Asia incline to each other, and are connected, were universally styled 'Σχύθαι.' These were of that family who, of old, erected the great tower [of Babel], and who built the city of Babylon." Now, says Mr. Delafield, the traces of the race banished from Egypt having been lost, "it may be believed that from the supposition they had gone north, the Greeks gave the name of 'Scythia' to that remote and to them unknown country, whether it was supposed they had retired;" and he finds traces of their route in the monuments of Tartarian antiquity, the "line of ramparts" on the west and east of the Caspian, the names of places, and other circumstances. Their migration, he says, no matter what direction they chose, must have been made through hostile nations, and, "as we know them to have been skilful in erecting mural defences, where we trace these defences in the remains of ramparts, walls, &c. we may consider ourselves, with no small degree of certainty, on the correct track of this exiled race: and having discovered these ramparts as far north as the Caucasian mountains, the very name of which confirms the fact, we deem ourselves safe in tracing them thus far." He then goes on to show that like monuments of walls and ramparts, tumuli, and medals are found in Tartary and Siberia. "We find," he says, "among the present occupants of the country, the Siberian Tartars, a zodiac taken from that of Egypt, and this identical zodiac has also been discovered in Mexico; and we find, too, the greatest mural defences in the world in this land, of which the origin is unknown—witness the celebrated wall of China."

The progress of the migratory party and of Mr. Delafield's argument is of course obvious—from Asia to America, by Bering's Straits, is but a step—the distance is only fifty-two miles, and that is divided by three islands—and, as Mr. Delafield finds traces of the Mongolian family in the lineaments, language, manners, and customs of the North-American Indians—in their mythology, and their system of hieroglyphic inscription—as their astronomical divisions of time and zodiacal signs are, he says, one and the same—and the same peculiar monuments exist in both countries,—ergo, the mound-builders of America were the descendants of Cuth or Cush, one of the grandsons of Noah.

Though much of all this is but plausible theory and specious conjecture, still Mr. Delafield's work is welcome, and we are most happy to find that the subject of these antiquities engages public attention on the Ohio. But we would earnestly impress on him and the Society of which he is a member, and which has undertaken the investigation, that patient research is more valuable than brilliant speculation; that the great requisites are accurate delineations of the antiquities themselves, and correct descriptions of the localities in which they are found, and of all articles found in them or in their neighbourhood, such as idols, clay masks, copper rings, stone axes, &c.

To Mr. Delafield's work a very curious appendix is added by Dr. Lahay, 'On the Superiority of Man in the Northern Hemisphere over Man in the Southern Hemisphere.' Amidst much

vague and even wild conjecture, some points are mooted which deserve consideration, particularly in relation to the geographical distribution of animals. The Essay is, however, sadly out of place, unless, indeed, Dr. Lahay *regis ad exemplar*, having witnessed the curvettings of Mr. Delafield on one hobby, wished to show his own skill in cantering another.

The Letters of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford: including numerous Letters now first published from the Original Manuscripts. Vol. I. London, Bentley.

This is the first volume of a complete edition of 'The Letters of Horace Walpole,' which is to contain not only all that have been published, but several hundred letters which have hitherto existed only in manuscript, or made their appearance singly and incidentally in other works, the whole arranged in chronological order. A more welcome present Mr. Bentley could not have offered us: Walpole's letters are unequalled in the language—delightful in themselves and a most amusing and instructive commentary on the history of parties, and of the country, from 1735 to 1797; and as a superadded grace, the publisher has most judiciously prefixed the 'Reminiscences of the Courts of George the First and Second.' No doubt the principal additions will be the letters addressed to the Misses Berry—if so, they will appear later in the work—but we have stumbled on one or two, even in this first volume. The following to Chute needs no signature:—

"To John Chute, Esq.

"Houghton, August 20, 1743.

"INDEED, my dear Sir, you certainly did not use to be stupid, and till you give me more substantial proof that you are so, I shall not believe it. As for your temperate diet and milk bringing about such a metamorphosis, I hold it impossible. I have such lamentable proofs every day before my eyes of the stupefying qualities of beef, ale, and wine, that I have contracted a most religious veneration for your spiritual nouriture. Only imagine that I here every day see men, who are mountains of roast beef, and only seem just roughly hewn out into the outlines of human form, like the giant-rock at Pratolino! I shudder when I see them brandish their knives in act to carve, and look on them as savages that devour one another. I should not stare at all more than I do, if yonder alderman at the lower end of the table was to stick his fork into his neighbour's jolly check, and cut a brave slice of brown and fat. Why, I'll swear I see no difference between a country gentleman and a surloin; whenever the first laughs, or the latter is cut, there run out just the same streams of gravy! Indeed, the surloin does not ask quite so many questions. I have an aunt here, a quite piece of goods, an old remnant of inquisitive hospitality and economy, who, to all intents and purposes, is as beefy as her neighbours. She wore me so down yesterday with interrogatories, that I dreamt all night she was at my ear with who's and why's and when's and where's, till at last in my very sleep I cried out, For God in heaven's sake, Madam, ask me no more questions! Oh! my dear Sir, don't you find that nine parts in ten of the world are of no use but to make you wish yourself with that tenth part? I am so far from growing used to mankind by living amongst them, that my natural ferocity and wildness does but every day grow worse. They tire me, they fatigue me; I don't know what to do with them; I don't know what to say to them; I fling open the windows, and fancy I want air; and when I get by myself, I undress myself, and seem to have had people in my pockets, in my plait, and on my shoulders! I indeed find this fatigue worse in the country than in town, because one can avoid it there and has more resources; but it is there too. I fear 'tis growing old; but I literally seem to have murdered a man whose name was Ennui, for his ghost is ever before me. They say there is no English word for *ennui*: I think you may translate it most literally by what is called 'entertaining people,' and 'doing the honours': that

is, you sit an hour with somebody you don't know and don't care for, talk about the wind and the weather, and ask a thousand foolish questions, which all begin with, 'I think you live a good deal in the country,' or, 'I think you don't love this thing or that.' Oh! 'tis dreadful! I'll tell you what is delightful—the Dominichin! My dear Sir, if ever there was a Dominichin, if there was ever an original picture this is one. I am quite happy; for my father is as much transported with it as I am. It is hung in the gallery, where are all his most capital pictures, and he himself thinks it beats all but the two Guido's. That of the Doctors and the Octagon—I don't know if you ever saw them? What a chain of thought this leads me into! but why should I not indulge it? I will flatter myself with your, some time or other, passing a few days here with me. Why must I never expect to see anything but Beefs in a gallery which would not yield even to the Colonna! If I do not most unlimitedly wish to see you and Mr. Withed in it this very moment, it is only because I would not take you from our dear *Many*. Adieu! you charming people all. Is not Madame Bosville a Beef? Yours, most sincerely."

Another is an addition to the Conway collection:—

"To the Hon. H. S. Conway.

"Arlington Street, June 29, 1744.

"My Dearest Henry,—I don't know what made my last letter so long on the road: yours got hither as soon as it could. I don't attribute it to any examination at the post-office. God forbid I should suspect any branch of the present administration of attempting to know any one kind of thing! I remember when I was at Eton, and Mr. Bland had set me an extraordinary task, I used sometimes to pique myself upon not getting it, because it was not immediately my school business. What! learn more than I was absolutely forced to learn! I felt the weight of learning that; for I was a blockhead, and pushed up above my parts. * * I beg you will never tell me any news till it has past every impression of the Dutch gazette; for one is apt to mention what is wrote to one: that gets about, comes at last to the ears of the ministry, puts them in a fright, and perhaps they send to beg to see your letter. Now, you know one should hate to have one's private correspondence made grounds for a measure,—especially for an absurd one, which is just possible. If I was writing to anybody but you, who know me so well, I should be afraid this would be taken for pique and pride, and be construed into my thinking all ministers inferior to my father; but my dear Harry, you know it was never my foible to think over-abundantly well of him. Why I think as I do of the present great geniuses, answer for me, Admiral Mathews, great British Neptune, bouncing in the Mediterranean, while the Brest squadron is riding in the English Channel, and an invasion from Dunkirk every moment threatening your coasts; against which you send for six thousand Dutch troops, while you have twenty thousand of your own in Flanders, which not being of any use, you send these very six thousand Dutch to them, with above half of the few of your own remaining in England; a third part of which half of which few you command, because you are again alarmed with the invasion, and yet let the six Dutch go, who came for no other end but to protect you. And that our naval discretion may go hand-in-hand with our military, we find we have no force at home; we send for fifteen ships from the Mediterranean to guard our coasts, and demand twenty from the Dutch. The first fifteen will be here, perhaps, in three months. Of the twenty Dutch, they excuse all but six, of which six they send all but four; and your own small domestic fleet, five are going to the West Indies and twenty a hunting for some Spanish ships that are coming from the Indies. Don't it put you in mind of a trick that is done by calculation? Think of a number: halve it—double it—add ten—subtract twenty—add half the first number—take away all you added: now, what remains? That you may not think I employ my time as idly as the great men I have been talking of, you must be informed, that every night constantly I go to Ranelagh; which has totally beat Vauxhall. Nobody goes anywhere else—everybody goes there. My Lord Chesterfield is so fond of it, that he says he has ordered all his letters to be directed thither. If you had never seen it,

I would make you a most pompous description of it, and tell you how the floor is all of beaten princes—that you can't set your foot without treading on a Prince of Wales or Duke of Cumberland. The company is universal: there is from his Grace of Grantham down to children out of the Foundling Hospital—from my Lady Townshend to the kitten—from my Lord Sandys to your humble cousin and sincere friend."

We look forward with pleasure to the publication of the remaining volumes, and have no doubt we shall glean from them a rich harvest.

Norway, and the Norwegians. By G. Latham, Esq. 2 vols. Bentley.

The author of these volumes informs us, that when he travelled in Norway, he had no intention of writing a book. When he took up the pen, his impressions were already five years old; his work therefore is a chain of desultory observations rather than a well-knit narrative: it is a sketchy outline, rather than a finished likeness. The success of Mr. Laing's volume on Norway, seems to have awakened the attention of tourists to that country, or at least to have convinced them, that though not opulent, nor refined, nor weighing very heavy in the political scale; yet Norway has, in its free institutions, and the hearty manners of the "Old North," wherewith to win the sympathy, and perhaps recommend itself to the imitation of politer nations. But the animated, glowing portraiture of Mr. Laing, must draw all eyes from incomplete sketches, even if they were less feeble, graceless, and scratchy, than Mr. Latham's. The style of this author continually brings to our minds

"The dry chips of short-lived Seneca."

He has a sufficient command of language, yet it never flows, and in ransacking his memory to give us the impressions which objects made on his mind, he is at times painfully minute, as if he thought to represent the great by accumulating the trivial. As a sample of his manner, and not his worst manner, we shall extract his account of the dissolution of the Storting, or Norwegian parliament:—

"The time was come for their dissolution. They had done their work. Their pay was to be stopped, though journey-money was to be allowed for taking them home. The Prince took the president's chair. The members stood before him. I forgot whether they wore their hats or were uncovered. The Vice-roy's speech was short. Where the sovereign of Great Britain would say, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, Prince Oscar said, *I Norske Mænd, Ye Men of Norway*. Further than this I heard not, or, if I heard, failed in understanding."

Mr. Latham's second volume, we are happy to acknowledge, is much better than his first. It is not a continuation of his faded reminiscences of travel, but a collection of miscellaneous essays on the history, constitution, and literature of Norway, not very learned or elaborate, it is true; yet bearing such evidence of a cultivated mind as makes us regret that its author should ever rest satisfied with hasty workmanship. We must treat his volumes, however, as he treated Norway,—skim lightly over them and be satisfied; we shall therefore alight at once in Christiania, the capital of that kingdom, which Mr. Latham thus depicts in his peculiar manner:—

"There are no houses of towering altitude. Two whitish-brown stories is the orthodox height. Nothing very gay in the shop-windows; the vender's name and profession are not lettered so neatly as they might be. The familiar placarded eulogiums of Warren's Blacking, with their inscrutable cat, and their reflecting boot, in black and red, are occasionally visible. I hear that the same may be seen on the Pyramids, and on the wall of China. The largest open place is the Market, about the size of Bloomsbury-square. The streets are about the breadth of Long Acre. They are well paved, and the kennels keep within their banks. The light of modern days—gas—has yet to break upon them. Wherever four

streets meet there is a well, and wherever there is a well there are palings round it. People congregate at these points less than might be imagined. In England, they would be general rendezvous. Gangs of twelve or ten would gossip around them. The streets are named, and the names are put up at their corners."

This we hope will suffice for the reader; who probably little cares to know, that "there are two druggists' shops in the town: over each stands a carved elephant with a castle on its back." Neither shall we dwell on the pregnant sentence "Tom and Jerry shops there are none." Our author visited the theatre at Christiania "but once," during a residence there of some months. On that occasion he met Ohlenschläger, the most eminent of the Danish poets now living, and discussed with him the merits of Shakespeare, but has forgotten the conversation. Moreover, he forgets to tell us, what ought not to have escaped the observation of an Englishman residing in Christiania, and able to converse in the language of that country, that the educated Norwegians are passionately fond of Shakespeare; and that dramatic performances by amateurs, as much in English as Danish, constitute the chief winter amusement of that little capital. This information we have had from one of the professors at the University, who takes a chief part in those performances, and whose English, learned from the pages of our great dramatists, smacks strongly of antiquity.

We are almost tempted to extract by way of counterpart, or rather of contrast to our author's account of Christiania, the description of Bergen from the pen of Professor Hansteen. It is pleasant to find, that a profound philosopher can also have a quick eye and bright imagination; that instead of adding particle to particle to make up the whole, he can group his objects effectively, and express more by one happy dash, than dulness can do with the most laborious etching. But we shall abstain from borrowing our author's borrowed feathers, and endeavour to draw from his pages some atoms of originality. He had the good fortune to make the acquaintance, and to spend some time at the house of Wergeland, a poet and miscellaneous writer of great genius. Eidsvold, the poet's residence, is quaintly described by our author, as "one of those places that might have been built of brick if it had chosen." Here he grew acquainted with the domestic economy of the North, and framed many maxims which we recommend to the attention of gastronomists, but we fear that he sometimes indulges in a *mauvaise plaisanterie*, as when he avers that "reindeer tongues, such as we eat in England, come from donkeys."

Travellers in Norway are generally very exuberant in their praises of the carriage; here, therefore, is a minute account of that far-famed conveyance:—

"The carriage, as I said before, is an elegant but an unsocial conveyance. In England they would be called *Sallies*. They are as exclusive as a game at *solitaire*. You can share them with your neighbour no more than you can share your wife with him. A lad sits behind you, but he counts for nothing. A carriage is no more meant for two than a side-saddle is meant for a pair. To sit in them properly you should be somewhat round-shouldered. The body of them is somewhat like that mythological shell, in which Venus is supposed to have been cradled on the ocean, as you see her upon antique gems, and in Spence's Mythology, with her hair for a dressing-gown, and two Tritons for supporters. Light and elastic are the shafts, and flexible as bows, of the same hue as the body, i.e., chocolate-coloured, and made of the deal *hewn on Norwegian hills*; which is taxed in England, but which resists the dry-rot. Behind, is a kind of miniature music-stool, by way of a dicky. At least it would serve as a music-stool, if the parts whereon we sit were of no larger calibre than are those whereon we stand, and if bustles were non-existent. Marvelously small is this small carriage-dicky. The poor

post-lad has to sit on it. He is perched uncomfortably. He fidgets irregularly and at intervals, *with a short uneasy motion*. As the shafts are, so are the wheels, light, elegant, and chocolate-coloured. You are your own driver. The foot-board is as long as, but no broader than your legs. You sit with them extended. Your toes and knees are on one and the same plane. They are projected from your trunk at a right angle. Your feet are on a level with the middle of the horse's tail, and your hatband is on a line with his ears. You do not look down on your steed. An untailed pony-chaise in England, and a carriage in Norway, are much of a height. You see less of the country than would be visible from a coach-box. A tandem-driver would make an effort to desry you, so much are you below his altitude. There is nothing elaborate about the harness. You must be able to rig your steed for yourself; since it is, at times, but carelessly put on; and when you get to a hill let the horse choose his own pace, giving him his head. Nobody but an Englishman puts his trust in bearing-reins. If you drive as you ought to do, you will stand in no need of whips. There is little occasion for any jaunty squaring of your elbows. Expostulations should stand in place of the lash. Talk to your horse. You had better not know how to converse with his master. A dog-whip in England is a gig-whip elsewhere, the handle being short, and the lash long; a flagellational Iambic."

This last expression of our author's leads us to remark, that his style of thinking and of writing bespeaks a mind which owes most of its discipline to the exercise of writing nonsense verses. Notwithstanding his admiration of the carriage, he made but little use of it, or in other words he travelled but little through Norway; scenery appears to have had no charm for him; Schneehatten is little more than 8,000 feet high, and therefore greater mountains, as he justly observes, may be seen at any time in Switzerland. His second volume, as we have already observed, is more agreeable than the first. It contains among other things the whole of the Norwegian constitution, of which our author is a warm admirer, and specimens of the songs written on it,—the style of writing, we suspect, in which he is best calculated to shine. The father of his friend Wergeland was a member of the Convention that framed the constitution. Some extracts from his account of the proceedings of the Convention, are not the least amusing portions of our author's volumes. Take the following scrap for instance:—

"Occasionally, members, when it comes to their turn to vote, are asleep. During one of the debates towards the conclusion of the sitting, the member for —— was in the arms of Morpheus, and had to be shaken up before he found his voice. Upon awaking, he simply inquired how Mr. So-and-So had voted, added, that he means to vote with him, and went to sleep again. To another member a vote of thanks was proposed, over the dinner-table, for his quiet demeanour during the whole of the meeting. For much business to be got through, it is by no means necessary that *all* should either work, or speak. Great is the authority of a silent member. G—— W—— (I suppose Grev. Wedel) speaks in favour of Jewish emancipation; yet with no particular energy or earnestness. A select few support him. The rest are against him in toto. At present no Israelite can set foot upon Norwegian ground. The Hamburg merchants have to travel there by proxy. And excluded they are likely to remain. Mr. Wergeland, a thoroughly liberal-minded man, has the following remarks upon Grev. Wedel's motion.—'We want no Jews here, we have Jews enough of our own persuasion. Men that have the whole world for a father-land' (he might as well have talked of having all the people in it for a father) 'may well afford to leave us our little slice of it to ourselves. Their presence would only serve to impoverish the people.' A bad pun is but a poor excuse for the denial of religious liberty."

The following history of a compromise also deserves to be recorded:—

"The next day is the Sabbath. J. D. proposes that Sunday be no day of rest, and that, as the assembly is pressed for time, the members keep on

their sittings throughout the week. Exceptions are taken to this. 'The King's law,' says Pr. H., 'orders that all persons should, on this day, be at their respective parish churches.' (Hear and laughter; the respective parish churches of some of the members being a thousand miles off.) 'By parish churches I mean the church of Eidsvold.' The matter was voted on, and the majority decided in favour of doing work on the Sabbath. Hereupon the *Noes* became recusant. No legislation can go on, unless two-thirds of the members are present. Every member must attend, unless he can show a lawful reason for being absent. Now to do work on a Sunday is unlawful; so the minority determine upon bringing the business to a stand still, by keeping away. The president proposed a compromise. The assembly shall dine early to-day, and meet again after dinner. This is assented to. And now a theological dispute supplants the political one. 'I know no Latin and Greek,' says one of the county members from Westland, 'but I know that you may do nothing on a Sunday, except give assistance to your oxen and your ases. We are neither one nor the other.'

Notwithstanding Mr. Latham's partiality to Norway, he is obliged to confess, that the consumption of spirituous liquors is increasing there with alarming rapidity; and also that the northern provinces of the kingdom are declining in population, while the Russians daily gain more and more on the neglected fisheries. He bears witness to the violent hatred felt by the Norwegians towards the latter nation, as well as towards the Swedes; but gives us none of that information which would enable us to draw the line between the language of ancient and jealous nationality, and that of antipathies founded on fear or irritation. On the whole, we find Mr. Latham's volumes fatiguingly light; yet they have something in them indicative of an author capable of doing better.

The Political Songs of England. Edited by T. Wright, Esq., M.A. F.S.A. Published by the Camden Society.

Relique Antiqua. Nos. II. and III. London, Pickering.

THERE is no error more common than that of estimating ancient institutions and past events by modern standards, and in nothing is this more apparent than in the accounts usually given of the monastic orders and scholastic philosophy. No man ever founded an order with the preposterous purpose of doing mischief; no institution, indeed, ever had a long date of existence if it did not in some way or other contribute to the benefit and advancement of mankind. The first resistance to barbaric pride and pontifical luxury was made in the monasteries; the Reformation itself began in the Augustinian cloisters; and in the volume before us, just published by the Camden Society, it is shown that the liberty of the monastery heralded the liberty of the press,—that Political Songs were the precursors of "leading articles,"—and that the minstrels, the newsvenders of the day, came regularly to the monasteries for fresh supplies to hawk over the country. It was a necessary result that the earlier songs should be written in Latin, the universal language of the church and cloister; but in process of time writers in the vulgar tongue, the unstamped press of the day, appeared as competitors.

The earliest pieces in the volume belong to the reign of King John: in the disputes between him and the Pope, several of the monastics joined their sovereign, not so much from loyalty, as from jealousy of the secular clergy, especially the bishops:—

Utar contra vitia carmine rebelli;
Mel proponunt alii, fel supponunt mellis,
Pectus subest feruum deauratae pelli,
Et iconis spolium indument aselli.
Disputat cum animo facies rebellis,
Mel ab ore defluit, mens est plena fellis;
Non est totum mellum quod est instar mellis;
Facies est alia pectoris quam pellis.

Vitium est in opere, virtus est in ore,
Picem tegunt animi niveo colore:
Membra dolent singula capit dolor,
Et radici consonat pomum in sapore.

Roma mundi caput est, sed nil capit mundum;
Quod pender a capite totum est in mundum;
Transit enim vitium primum in secundum,
Et de fundo redolent quod est iuxta fundum.

Roma capit singulos et res singularum;
Romanorum curia non est nisi forum.
Ibi sunt venalia iura senatorum,
Et solvit contraria copia numerorum.
Hic in consistorio si quis causam regat
Suan, vel alterius, hoc in primis legit,—
Nisi det pecuniam Roma totum negat,
Qui plus dat pecunie melius allegat.

Romani capitulum habent in decreatis,

Ut potentes audiant, manibus petitis:

Dabis aut non dabitur, petunt qui petis;

Qua mensura seminas, et eidem metis.

The third line in the following stanza, of a satire against the bishops in the reign of Henry III., appears to us incorrect:—

Licet ager cum agrotis,
Et ignotus cum ignotis,
Fungar tamen vice totis,
Jus usurpans sacerdotis;
flete, Syon filie,
presidies ecclesie
imitantur hodie
Christum a remota.

We think it should be read "Fungar tamen vice cotis," I will act as a whetstone,—a common Latin proverb frequently used by ecclesiastical writers to express the relations of a bishop to his clergy. The concluding verse is remarkable for the allusion to the proverbs of Solomon, in the description of the church, as "another daughter of the horse-leech taken to wife by the venal state."

The song on the Tailors, belonging to the same reign, is a humorous satire on the extravagant dresses of the great. The opening may be thus rendered in halting verses like the original:—

Ye are Gods, as I've said,
Then why should I dread
Your festival praise to unfold?
Ye are Gods, it is true,
For ye turn to new
The vests that are tatter'd and old.
The new cloth ye shape
To a mantle on capre
But the capre is the prior creation:
And when it is worn
To a mantle, twill turn
A proper tran-substantiation.

Simon de Montfort is the hero of the songs relating to the baronial wars; they are remarkable for a spirit of religious enthusiasm which sometimes reminds us of the age of Cromwell. On the accession of Edward I. a sudden change in popular feeling becomes manifest. The monks are found to have sunk in popular estimation, probably because the supply greatly exceeded the demand. St. Louis, of France, bequeathed to Christendom several new orders, all of which were more or less infected by the bigotry, generated in the Albigensian wars; and as the pious haste of founders could not wait for the tedious examination of candidates, many of the members brought disgrace on their profession by scandalous lives. "The order of Fair Ease," which the author feigns to have included the vices of all the rest, is a satire on the English monks in the time of Edward I. One curious passage may be thus freely rendered—it is part of the attack on the Preaching Friars:—

Now, to borrow from the Preachers,—
Craftiest of overreachers,—
Like them, when you play a sinner
Give the sermon after dinner:
Thirsty men resist appealing,
Hungry stomachs have no feeling,—
Stout they bide the wordy peiting:—
But when wine the soul is melting,
Broken are the stony fences,
Then the godly work commences,
Sups and sermons force the border,
A soul is won to join your order.

During the reign of Edward I. a spirit of freedom and of commercial enterprise became rife in England; from both causes much interest was felt in the struggle of the Flemings against the King of France. One of the most lively ballads in the collection celebrates the victory of

the Flemish "webbes and fullaris" (weavers and fullers) over the haughty chivalry of France.

Another curious song is a kind of irregular ode on the violation of the Charter by Edward II. We shall quote a portion of it, describing the causes assigned by four wise men for the lamentable condition of England:—

The erste seide, "I understande
Ne may no king wel ben in londe,
Under God Almihite,
But he cumme himself rede,
Hou he shall in londe lede
Everi man wid rihte,
For might is riht,
Licht is night,
And fliht is flift.

For miht is riht, the lond is lawless;
For niht is liht, the lond is forleess;
For fliht is flift, the lond is nameless."

That other seide a word ful god,

"Who roweth azein the fiod,

Off sorwe he shal drinke;

Also hit fareth bi the unsele,

A man shal have litel hele

Ther aegin to swinke.

Nu on is two,

Another is wo,

And frend is io.

For on is two, that lond is streintheles;

For wel is wo, the lond is reutholes;

For frend is fo, the lond is lovesles.

That thridre seide, "It is no wonder

Off thise eyres that god under,

When their comen to londe

Proude and stoute, and ginneth zelpe,

Ac of thing that shidle helpe

Have theih onholt on heode,

Nu just haveth leve,

Theif is reve,

And pride hath slave.

For lust hath levo, the lond is theowles;

For theif is reve, the lond is penyles;

For pride hath slave, the lond is aimusles.

The ferthe seide, that he is wod

That dwelleth to muchel in the fiod,

For gold or for auhete;

For gold or silver, or any wile,

Hunger or thurst, heto or chele,

Al shal gon to nothe,

Nu wille is red,

Wit is quied,

And god is ded.

For wille is red, the lond is wroeful;

For wit is quied, the lond is wrongful;

For god is ded, the lond is sinful.

Langtoft's Chronicle is added to the collection on account of the many snatches of English song interspersed with the Norman French. It is edited with great care and critical sagacity, and will be found a valuable addition to the rhyming romances of Normandy published by the French government.

The second publication, named at the head of this article, has been already noticed in the *Athenæum*; the new numbers contain some curious illustrations of ancient manners, not the least so is the description of the ancient horn-book:—

A place, as man may se,
Quan a chyld to scale xal set be,
A bok hym is browt,
Naylid on a brede of tre,
That men callly an abeece,
Pratylych i-wroot.
Wroot is on the bok withouto
.v. paraflys grete and stoute,
Rolyd in rose-red;
That set withoutyn doute
In tokenyng of Cristes ded.
Red letter in parchemyn
Maketh a chyld good and fyne
Letrys to loke and se.
Be this bok men may dyvynne
That Cristes body was ful of pyne,
That devild on rode tre.

A hymn to the Virgin, in English and Latin of the thirteenth century, is remarkable for the smoothness of its verse and sweetness of its melody. We shall quote the three first stanzas:

On that is so fayr and bright,
velut maria stella,
Brighter than the day is ligt,
parens et puerla.
Ic crie to the, thou se to me,
Levedy, preyte thi sone for me,
tam pia,
That ic mote come to the,
Maria.
Al this world was for-lore
Eva peccatrice,
Tyl our Lord was y-bore
de te genetrice.

With ave it went away,
Thuster myth and comz the day
salutis;
The welle springet hut of the
virtutis.
Levedi, flout of alle thing,
rosa sine spina,
Thu bere Jhesu hevene king,
gratia divina;
Of alle thu borst the pris,
Levedi, quene of parays
deota.
Mayde milde, moder es
effeta.

The song of the school-boy at Christmas in Macaronic verse, is appropriate to the season:—

Ante finem termini baculus portamus,
Capud hastiarum frangere dehunus;
Si preceptor nos petit quo debamus ire,
Breviter respondemus, non est tibi scire.
O pro nobilis doctor, now we you pray,
U't velitis conceder to gyff has left to play.
Nunc proponimus ire, withou any ney,
Solem dissolvore, I tell' itt yone in fey.
Sicut istud festum merth is for to make,
Accipimus nostram diem ower leye for to take.
Post natale festum, full sor shall we quake,
Quoniam nos reuenimus latens for to make.
Ergo nos rogamus, harty and holle,
U'sto dje possimus to breck up the sole.

The best piece in the collection is 'The Abbot of Gloucester's Feast,' written in dog Latin, like the *Epistola Obscurorum Virorum*, and, like that celebrated satire, not very remarkable for the delicacy of its details; for broad caricature, however, it would be difficult to find its rival.

The Maiden Monarch, or Island Queen. 2 vols.
Hastings.

Is running through the pages of this work, criticism finds itself irresistibly disarmed, because it is felt, at once, that the author is quite friendless. The writers of such books are, *prima facie*, men having neither father, brothers, nor relations in any interested degree—no friends even—or they never would have been allowed to sacrifice themselves in this unheard-of manner. A consciousness of this restrains our truculent inclinations,—and will communicate an unwonted tone of mildness to the few remarks we shall offer.

In the course of a three years' wandering, our author and a friend (for, in the fiction, he *has* a friend, though, if all he says about him be true, he would have been much better without him), in some unknown sea or other, discover an island, on which they induce the captain of their vessel to land them, and are surprised to find that its manners, customs, climate, institutions, and political position are those of England—the great kingdom of which the said island is the seat being, then, also, under the sway of a young maiden queen, who has recently succeeded to the throne of her ancestors. Under this slender disguise, the author institutes himself Fénelon to Queen Victoria; and is good enough to solve for her all the knotty questions of government and legislation, in a spirit of considerable originality and unquestionable benevolence. With good taste, however, and perhaps some shrewdness, the wisdom with which the volumes overflow is not uttered by the narrator, but comes out of the Queen's own mouth,—she being one of those marvels of princesses with whom the world has made its principal acquaintance through the pages of fairy tales. Where, indeed, this young creature got all the wisdom, which she enunciates in good set and inexhaustible phrases, nowhere appears. Fortunately, the Queen has an aged minister, in whom she can confide, and who supports her in her projects—that is, so far as a silent vote goes—for her Majesty does all the talking of the book; and we trust it may be held no disloyalty in our author's island, to say that she is terribly prosy. To this unhappy old man she "spins" such "yarns" as are admirably calculated to exhibit the power of endurance which a courtier must possess. They, however, kill him at last,—and really the death of this old noble is a relief. It is like the lifting off a night-mare. We would

have offered our readers a specimen of the discourses that killed the Prime Minister—or, as an Irishman would say, "the tune the old cow died of," but are warned by his fate, and would not willingly lessen their number.

The Queen's experiments in morals are, however, the characteristic portion of the book; and it would not be fair to the author to leave him without adducing one, which may stand as a sample of the whole. We will therefore exhibit his views on a subject of great importance, on which, indeed, much has been already written, and more will,—unless our author should be considered to have settled the question. We allude to the subject of punishment for the higher offences. Of course, capital penalties have no place in this writer's code,—as we hope they will not long have in any; but, in their place, he substitutes a penitentiary system of his own, which has such features of novelty as make it worth the consideration of legislators. In her search after a subject for her experiment, the Queen is so fortunate as to stumble upon a most unequivocal case-hardened ruffian, steeped in blood. Thereupon, she causes to be erected in a picturesque part of her own park, at —, a sort of *cottage ornée*, surrounded by a garden; and, when the murderer's pleasant residence is complete, she has the coquettishness to go for him to the Newgate of that capital, in her own carriage,—take him down the road (together with his mother, a most horrible and blood-thirsty old woman) in that rapid and luxurious mode of travelling which royal carriages and relays furnish,—introduce him into his elegant home,—make him a speech, which, being metaphorical, he does not fully comprehend,—requests that, in cultivating his garden, if there should be any plant in her conservatories or shrubberies to which he takes a fancy, he will, without hesitation, apply for it (Vol. I. p. 131); and then withdraws, congratulating herself on having secured such pleasant neighbours. Her next step is to cause an observatory to be erected (Vol. I. p. 133), so overgrown with ivy (Vol. II. p. 15) that no human eye can penetrate it from the outside (it is not mentioned how this vegetable feast is achieved), from whence, daily, for many weary and almost hopeless months, she watches the progress of that moral amelioration which is to be effected by merciful treatment—and the influences of nature. At length, "one fine morning," as Captain Marryat would say, the ruffian is observed, from amid the clustering foliage of the newly-raised turret, looking at a rose-tree, from whence he condescends to raise his eyes, for the first time, to "the flowering shrubs and trees which overhung the garden wall, and from them to the clear blue sky above him." Thereupon, the experiment is considered successful;—the perfume of the rose has sweetened his spirit—and the system is established. This treatment was certainly bold, as well as merciful. It was worth while to be a murderer under a Queen like that. We confess that we are favourable to the author's views. A cottage in Windsor Park is a retreat greatly to our taste, and it might be convenient to know that there were a variety of roads leading to such a thing, through the several pages of the statute book. A great many of the lieges, under such a system of criminal jurisprudence would, we think, be likely to become neighbours of Her Majesty and Prince Albert. We have our favourite spots, however, and the only improvement which we should suggest on the plan, as developed in the case of the interesting Bertrand, would be that, in the event of conviction, in our own particular case, Her Majesty should allow us to select our location.

Austria. By Peter Evan Turnbull, Esq., F.R.S.
2 vols. Murray.

THE work before us consists of two parts; a narrative of travels through the Austrian dominions, and a series of discussions on their social and political condition, arranged with reference to its various most important elements—religion, education, morality, jurisprudence, feudal and municipal institutions, civil and military administrations, and domestic and foreign policy. The travels, forming the subject-matter of the first volume, are evidently those of a man whose design in visiting foreign countries is less to remark external objects, than to examine and study the moral and political phenomena presented by the state of society, and the mechanism and effects of government. Hence, although the narrative portion of Mr. Turnbull's work possesses considerable interest, and deserves a place among the best productions of modern tourists,—containing, as it does, much agreeable and valuable observation upon every prominent object of curiosity which he found scattered through the range of an empire so various in its composition, comprising nations so different in their history, their manners, and their language, such diversities of scenery, and so great a number of polished and celebrated cities,—it is to the other division of the work we must refer our readers for what we consider the more important and best executed part of it. The Austrian despotism is every day becoming more and more an object of deep and anxious regard with the politician and philanthropist. It begins to divide, with the great American democracy, the attention of all who prosecute the study of human happiness, and the science of civilization and government. A multitude of questions, intricate and startling, spring out of the consideration of its policy, its establishments, and their effects (in many cases so surprising and paradoxical,) upon the social system and the condition of the people. A writer, therefore, whose long and diligent researches into the state of Austria has enabled him to collect much valuable information respecting it, and to throw much light upon all the chief points of the various problems which it suggests, renders political science a service of no small moment.

We want more such books as Mr. Turnbull's 'Austria.' Except Mr. Henry Bulwer's 'France,' and one or two other works of like character, modern travellers have been too generally occupied with statues, pictures, architecture, operas, pageants, costumes, banquets, and the like topics: seeing every thing in the country visited but the people and the circumstances that affect their welfare; admirable painters of an Alpine scene, a pass in the Tyrol, or a gorge in the Pyrenees,—acute critics of a turban or mantilla,—diligent chroniclers of road-side adventures, wrangles with inn-keepers, and squabbles with post-boys,—but conveying as little knowledge to their readers on the chief objects of interest and concern with enlightened men, as if there was nothing in Italy or Spain so unworthy of notice as the Italian or the Spaniard. We do not, of course, mean to question the value of any work by which any sort or degree of information as to foreign states, upon even the subordinate matters we allude to, is communicated to the public; we merely censure the too prevalent inattention of our English *tourists* to those topics which demand the largest share of their notice; and we would impress upon such as are ambitious of meriting the higher title of *travellers*, that the "quicquid agunt homines" must form a main ingredient of the "farrago libelli." Bacon, in the essay on travel, arranges "the things to be seen and observed" in their natural and just order, placing first "the courts of princes, especially when they give audience to ambassadors; the courts of justice, while they sit

and hear causes, and so of consistories ecclesiastic," and closing the catalogue with "triumphs, masks, feasts, weddings, and such shows," of which he merely observes, "that they are not to be neglected." All we contend for is, that the points which the great philosopher and essayist says "are not to be neglected," ought not to form the leading objects of a traveller's attention, and the staple of his published narrative on his return home. The author of the work before us, properly entitled 'Austria,' has seen and recorded his opinions of things with a due regard to their several claims upon the notice of an enlightened observer. He has studied, indeed, more than the courts of monarchs, the tribunals of justice, or the synods of churchmen; he has extended the precept of Bacon so as to comprehend, amongst the subjects of primary consideration, what in Bacon's time was not sufficiently regarded even by men of his extraordinary range of thought and commanding intellect—the state of the bulk of the human species and the vast combination of physical and political causes, which severally affect, and collectively produce it. This it is to be a traveller, not a tourist: to see the country itself, not merely lounge through the streets of Vienna and ramble through the Styrian mountains, then return to England, and publish a pompous book on Austria, from which it were as hard to discover the condition of that empire and its population, as to ascertain the state of Italy and Switzerland from Mrs. Starke's guide-book. We must, however, cite a few passages of interest from the first portion of the work in our hands, before we proceed to notice the more elaborate and important contents of the second volume. Our first extract exhibits a political curiosity, which, though not of Austrian growth, fell under our author's observation during his sojourn in the Austrian territories. At a desolate chateau, a few miles from Prague, he paid a visit of respect to the exiled Bourbons, and found that imbecile and fallen family enacting the dreary farce of royalty in a kingdom bounded by a garden wall, without servants, without carriages, with scarce a comfort in their prostrate fortunes but the insane hope of restoration to the throne of France. There was the old king—now only "a king in jest"—clothed in a long brown great coat, stooping much, but still animated and even gay, enjoying the pleasures of the chase in the Bohemian parks, and speaking with an air of lofty "commiseration, not of anger," of the people who were once his subjects. There was the young duke, "a fine stout healthy youth, with the Bourbon features strongly marked, and a clear ruddy complexion." There was the Duchesse d'Angoulême, little changed, and alone of the once regal circle cherishing no sanguine anticipations of the future. The Duchesse de Berri was absent at a distant residence assigned her by the Austrian government. The part of Prime Minister was played by the Duc de Blacas, and that of Master of the Horse by the Count O'Hegerty—a Master of the Horse without a stud! So much is necessary to introduce the following passage, in which, as we have said, the reader will find one of the curiosities of politics:—

" Yet was this little court said to be divided into parties, and distracted with animosities and factions. It is a subject which, had it come to my knowledge from personal observations made during my intercourse with the parties concerned, I should not have felt myself at liberty to enlarge; but there can be no breach of confidence in stating facts which were notorious both in Germany and in France, and which were communicated to me from various independent quarters. It will excite a smile of pity in the reader to learn that now, when the sovereign rule of France had passed away to another dynasty, the question, most fiercely agitated by the adherents of the exiled princes, was, which among them was

the legitimate king. Previous to the departure from St. Cloud, the old sovereign, in the hope of averting the necessity to emigrate, had, conjointly with the Duc d'Angoulême, signed an act of abdication in favour of the Duke de Bordeaux; in whose name, under the title of Henry V., certain proclamations were accordingly issued. After the whole family had quitted France, Charles was persuaded by his religious advisers to consider this act, extorted by circumstances, as null and void; and although it is believed that he had not the slightest personal wish to return to the throne, yet a feeling was enforced upon him that he could not lawfully divest himself of the sovereignty, or transfer to another the duties which he owed to his people. The question raised upon this point, however apparently ridiculous, was not devoid of political importance. The legitimate party, the adherents of the exiled family, were still strong and numerous in France; and of these the large majority would have openly acted, (with what success it is vain now to inquire) for the restoration of Henry V., but they felt that any such attempt in favour of Charles, must, from the great unpopularity of his last measures, be wholly unavailing. These, therefore, with the Duchess de Berri at their head, entreated from Charles a frank repetition of his act of abdication; but with this request Charles, on alleged religious grounds, peremptorily and ever after constantly refused to comply. Hence the efforts of the legitimists were divided, and in a great measure paralyzed. Among a large proportion of them, the doctrine of allegiance to Divine right prevented their acknowledgment of Henry, while Charles maintained his pretensions; and yet all felt alike that any attempt in favour of Charles himself would be a vain and fruitless effort. The Carlists and the Henriquists became two distinct and opposing parties; and their divisions may probably have been aggravated by the personal unkindness existing between the Duchess d'Angoulême and the Duchess de Berri, who were considered the respective leaders of each."

Mr. Turnbull tells us that he entered Upper Styria with the 'Consolations in Travel' in his hand; that he visited the lakes of Halstadt and Gmunden, and looked in vain for "the eternal snow, and other descriptive peculiarities," which make so pretty a figure in the book of Sir Humphry Davy. The following passage will dispose the public to some little tinge of infidelity in the adventures of continental tourists, even when the adventurer and narrator is a philosopher of the rank of Davy:—

" The Traun leaps grandly from the lake at its northern extremity, and flows through the descending vale. We followed its course ten miles farther, and arrived at the celebrated falls, over which the President records his having been projected, and dragged apparently lifeless to the shore, by the strong fishing-tackle of a stranger who was angling just below. The fall itself is about forty feet, and the mass of water considerable: but it derives more interest from the adventure of Sir Humphry, than from its own beauty or grandeur; and it was therefore with some feelings of disappointment that we ascertained the adventure itself to be utterly devoid of foundation,—a mere fiction of the poetical philosopher. The story itself was well known to all the cottagers about, for it had been repeated by every English tourist; and the addition has been made, doubtless by some English wag, that the angler below the falls was the present King of Bavaria; but all agreed that the adventure was a fable, introduced, no doubt, by the ardent genius of the author, to grace one of the most elegant and interesting publications that ever proceeded from the press."

Near Lietzen the author visited the celebrated Benedictine monastery of Admont,—by far the richest, and, with one exception, the largest in the Austrian empire.

" The regular establishment of monks at this noble abbey is ninety; but of these we found twenty only resident. In conformity with the system enforced by the Austrian government, as explained in the chapter on Religion (Vol. II.), the rest were out in the world, employed as professors in the universities, and other institutions for the education of youth, or fulfilling the duties of parochial incumbents in the parishes attached to the monastery. Those who remained

were likewise fully occupied. On some devolved the sacred or administrative offices of the abbey itself; on others the instruction of the youth of the district, whose gymnasium was within their walls; while to others again was committed the charge of the education bestowed on a body of students in theology, fifteen or twenty in number, who were boarded at a certain rate of payment within the abbey."

From this Mr. Turnbull naturally digresses into an historical view of the principal monastic orders now existing and established in Austria. The following testimony to the virtues and services of the Benedictines will be read with interest; and we particularly recommend it to the attention of those whose narrow education may have imbued them with an indiscriminate aversion to monasticism.

" The Benedictines, in the meantime, pursued in peace their benevolent cause. They had derived their origin from St. Benedict, who, as early as about the year 530, promulgated his rule, combining religious observances with severe bodily labour; but, as centuries passed on, and wealth increased, they had substituted Papal sanction mental for corporeal exertion. They had thus become the promulgators of religious, elegant, and useful learning, and of all those arts which tend to the improvement and happiness of man. Their missions went forth into the wildest mountain regions, administering comfort to the souls and bodies of the straggling natives; and wherever they fixed a station, which in time arose to be a successful monastery, there were morasses drained and forests cleared; agriculture and the decencies of life extended—while around their walls a town was gradually formed, the offspring and recipient of their instructions and their charities. Active and contemplative philosophy were united in their mansions. It is through them that the treasures of ancient learning have been preserved for us. Their libraries were the safe asylum for the toils of Homer and of Horace, which barbarous fanaticism would have devoted to the flames as emanations of idolatrous heathenism. Of painting and sculpture they were the enlightened patrons; and music is indebted to Benedictine genius for the construction of the organ, and the first adaptation of harmonies. As originators or agents of religious missions their zeal was ever tempered with judgment and kindness. To them the northern European nations owe, in a principal degree, their conversion to Christianity. Augustine, the founder of the Cathedral of Canterbury, our earliest primate, was a Benedictine; and to prelates of this rule may be traced the origin of nearly all our other cathedral edifices. Neither has the order forfeited, in later times, that high pre-eminence over other fraternities, in what even a Protestant may call moral dignity, of which it might boast in the most flourishing periods of its history. Wheresoever I have visited Benedictine communities, in the various countries of Europe, or even on the western side of the Atlantic, I have found them a body of well-educated, well-conducted gentlemen. They partake, of course, somewhat of the peculiar characteristic of their respective nation, whatsoever it may be. In Spain (where they were always very few) they may be somewhat less indulgently tolerant than at Naples—in Austria more actively laborious than in Lombardy—but in all parts they are highly superior to the monastic orders around them. Individually they live with great temperance, but no ascetic severity. Nowhere do they practise or recommend any peculiar austerities or confinements, and in no country have they allowed themselves to be instruments of persecution. It may perhaps be correct to say, that, as regards Roman Catholic countries, religion has been more tolerant in proportion as the Benedictine has been the prevailing character of monachism. In Spain the order was little known, and the land was delivered over to the Dominican fury; while in the kingdom of Naples, the cradle of the Benedictine system, the court of Rome could never obtain even the admission of the inquisition."

The magnificent Imperial Library at Vienna is thus described:—

" Foremost among these, situated in a portion of a pile of building close beside the palace, erected in great part by the Emperor Joseph II., for the arrangement of public museums, is the Imperial Library.

It contains, according to the accurate details of Balbi, about 270,000 volumes printed since the year 1500, 12,000 incunabula (books printed previous to the year 1500), 16,016 manuscripts, and 11,240 portfolios, containing one of the richest collections of engravings in Europe. These treasures are principally contained in one grand room, 240 (Vienna) feet long, by 45 wide, and 62 high, having an oval dome of 30 feet elevation above the general ceiling, and in five subsidiary rooms of smaller dimensions; but as the annual increase is from 3,500 to 3,800 volumes, the want of additional space is severely felt. This increase arises partly from the deposit of one copy of every work published in the Austrian territories, and partly from the purchase of foreign books—for which latter object, together with the cost of binding, and the purchase of engravings and manuscripts (the salaries of officers being paid separately), there is a fixed annual donation of 19,000 florins, or 1,900*l.* sterling; besides such further funds as are required, and are readily granted by the government, for the purchase of any specific works of expense. For five hours in every day the library is open to the public. No introduction is requisite: I have often passed an hour or two there, amid probably forty or fifty persons, comfortably seated in a comfortable room, and, owing to the excellence of the catalogues, supplied with remarkable promptness with the books they require."

The regulation of the various literary institutions in Austria is highly commended by our author. On the museums, and the like establishments at Vienna, he pronounces the following encomium:—justly apprehending in what the chief utility of such collections consists, and in what the skill of their management is best exhibited:—

"Of these museums generally, as indeed of most of the institutions under the Austrian government, the high and eminent excellency is their admirable adaptation to practical utility. In those of other countries we had seen articles of greater individual rarity; entire assemblages of certain branches, more copious and complete; but in no one were the various objects, to our apprehension, so ably and lucidly arranged, labelled, described, and exhibited, as at Vienna; and this, too, in a city, where space and light are so defective. Medals and shells are, from their vast variety and number, necessarily deposited in drawers, and are shown only on demand; but all the other contents of the museums are fully exhibited to the public, during a convenient number of hours; and the student has ample opportunity of following up his researches therein, in connexion with the lectures gratuitously afforded on the principal branches of science. The museums have all, likewise, a library of chosen books relating to the species of science or art, to which they are severally devoted; and as a sort of general appendix to them all (if I may use the term,) is the remarkable Gallery of Ambras in the suburbs. This is likewise an Imperial collection, of which the principal part was transported hither from the Castle of Ambras in the Tyrol. It consists of a most interesting and amusing mass of rare objects, in every department, arms and armour of the middle ages, ancient portraits, books, manuscripts, domestic and military utensils from Greenland, the Sandwich Islands, &c."

The second volume of the work, which we have already stated to be the most striking and valuable part of it, opens with the author's idea of the principle of the Austrian government, which he characterizes by the epithet "patriarchal"; and adds—"were its description to be attempted in a single word, perhaps the most appropriate, although still inadequate expression, would be *reverence*." "It regards," he says, "the whole community as members of a common family, varying in station, avocations, and faculties, but all of them objects alike of the fatherly solicitude of the ruling power, to which all are bound in filial, not servile, dependence. Hence it is the aim of the government, while wielding the sceptre of nominal autocracy, to conciliate the affections rather than to excite the apprehensions; to permit no question of its supreme authority, but to make the weight of that authority so light and indulgent, as to render it, in the popular belief,

the instrument and safeguard of individual happiness—as to convert into a habit and a pleasure that passive obedience which it ever inculcates as a duty." It is not, however, to be understood that this theory—for a theory it merely is—applies to the entire compass of the empire. Our author informs us that the principle of the Austrian monarchy is modified in Hungary by the ancient rights of the nobility, and in Italy by the entire discrepancy of character between the Italians and Germans. It is only in the German provinces that the paternal principle can be properly contemplated; and even there it is but a graft upon the stem of feudal institutions.

We have called the view of the Austrian government here taken, (and which agrees with the received notions respecting it,) a theory—a mere theory. We so designate it, not because we think it inadequate to explain the leading phenomena which the empire presents, but because we consider this "patriarchal" or "parental" principle rather as the happy accident of a few reigns, eminent for wise and beneficent administration, than as any fixed law in the political system of the Austrian dominions, by virtue of which their princes rule paternally, and filial obedience, rewarded by national prosperity, distinguishes the people. The despotism of Austria is not exempt from the general objection to all absolute government—the want of security for the wisdom and benevolence of the supreme authority. The well-being of the subject is an accident; the government which is parental under a monarch of sense and goodness, is no longer under one of an opposite character. The most perfect form of government which the human mind has a conception of, is an autocracy of the simplest kind; we allude, of course, to the sovereignty of the Divine Ruler of the world; but the perfection of this sovereignty results from the qualities of infinite wisdom and infinite goodness necessarily belonging to the very idea of the Monarch of all things. But where is the security for the fatherly dispositions of any human potentate? An Augustus is succeeded by a Tiberius—a Titus by a Domitian. The want of guarantee for the virtues indispensable in an autocrat, suggested the organization of free constitutions, and the control of popular assemblies; and it is singular enough, that the very country where such diffusion of the powers of government was established in the remotest times of which we have historical record, should now be remarkable for the experiment of their concentration in the hands of a sole monarch,—an experiment hitherto not unsuccessful, although in its success there is nothing to command our confidence in the political principle upon which it is founded.

An anecdote of the late Emperor Francis, related by Mr. Turnbull, in the first volume, serves to illustrate the manner in which the government of Austria has been indebted, for its hold upon the people, to the personal qualities of its princes.

Connected with this subject, I may mention one of those minute traits of character, which so much endear the Austrian prince to the people. At the time when the cholera was raging at Vienna, the emperor, with an aide-de-camp, was strolling about in the streets of the city and suburbs, when a corpse was dragged past on a litter unaccompanied by a single mourner. The unusual circumstance attracted his attention, and he learnt, on inquiry, that the deceased was a poor person who had died of cholera, and that the relatives had not ventured on what was then considered the very dangerous office of attending the body to the grave. "Then," said Francis, "we will supply their place, for none of my poor people should go to their grave without that last mark of respect;" and he followed the body to the distant place of interment, and, bare-headed, stood to see every rite and observance respectfully performed. By some sovereigns, past and present, such an act might have been performed for purposes of effect and

éclat: but with Francis the public believed, and in my mind justly believed, that it was the mere result of genuine feeling."

The author illustrates the different nature of the relations, in which the Italian and Hungarian dominions of Austria stand with respect to the Imperial authority, by comparing the Italian connexion to that of Ireland with Great Britain, and the Hungarian to that of Hanover with the same kingdom, before the demise of William IV. separated the Hanoverian Crown from the English. It is justly remarked, that "the maxims which prevail in a nation in respect to the tenure and descent of property, are among the most influential of those which operate on the social system." The first rule of the law of property in the German States is, one to the policy of which the recent course of our own legislature has borne testimony. The author describes it as "the equal character of all kinds of property." There exists no distinction between real and personal estate: land and money are subject to the same laws of tenure, transfer, and inheritance. The second principle is "the equality of right in all subjects of the empire, to hold and dispose of property without distinction of class or religion. The rights of property are the same to the Jew as to the Christian, and to the peasant as to the noble. A third great maxim, (most important in its political effects,) limits the powers of testamentary disposition to a specific portion, generally a moiety, of the testator's property, restricting the inheritance of the residue to the natural heirs in certain fixed proportions and degrees. In case of intestacy, property of every kind descends in equal shares to the children of both sexes, a life-interest, however, being carved out as a provision for the surviving parent. Mr. Turnbull accuses the policy of Austria, we think with justice, of over-regulation with respect to the law of property; but he thinks, nevertheless, that the general rules it has established, harmonize well with the genius of the government; on the one hand encouraging industry, and supporting parental authority, by the power reserved to dispose freely of one-half of each individual's possessions; on the other, protecting the offspring from parental caprice, by the general assurance of the *pflichttheil*, or that portion of the estate which it is not in the parents' power to alienate. With respect to the political influence of property, it is singular to see the despotic government of Austria pursuing the system acted upon in revolutionary France, and commonly considered so essentially democratic. In Austria, however, it is certain that the result aimed at is the attainment of a just medium between undue accumulation, and excessive subdivision; the formation of a wealthy aristocracy, and the growth of a pauper population, being regarded as equally formidable to the Imperial power.

The policy of the Austrian empire is altogether adverse to the existence of feudal institutions, and the local authority of the nobles over the rural population on their domains, is gradually giving place to municipal establishments and the principle of self-government. The author informs us, that the people of the German States live little on the fields they cultivate, but are collected in the villages. When a village counts 120 houses, it is entitled to become a chartered town, and the Crown is forward to grant the privilege. The charter conveys the usual corporate rights, the creation of a town-council, an internal police, and the power of raising money by rate on the inhabitants, or by loan under the common seal. This incorporation, however, is without prejudice to the antecedent rights of feudal superiors, and accordingly the first use commonly made of the power of self-taxation is, to purchase independence of the neighbouring lord, upon the

attainment of which the new municipality owns no superiority but that of the empire itself.

The system of feudal administration is described by Mr. Turnbull as generally mild and unoppressive, where the power is exercised by the nobles in person; but the case is often different, where they are represented by agents. The latter, however, are closely watched by the imperial authorities, who, in noticing their delinquencies, have it not only in view to protect the peasantry, but to lay the ground for limiting the power of the nobles.

The same comprehensive benevolence towards all its subjects which animates the civil policy of Austria, is visible in its ecclesiastical institutions. The chapter on the subject of religion is one of the best in the work before us. We quote the following passage as an illustration both of the tolerant spirit and the absolute power of the late emperor:—

"In all the German possessions of the crown, after the dread of Protestant supremacy or rivalry had passed away, general toleration was gradually introduced, and finally established by Joseph II.; so that, at this moment, every form of religion may in them be equally professed and exercised. At Vienna are, at present, consistorial congregations of Lutherans and Calvinists, Jewish synagogues, and churches of the oriental Greeks; but persons of every shade of religious creed are admissible to all stations of the army, law, and the civil government indifferently. Neither is this, as may be the case in some countries, a mere legal, and not a practical right. The crown appears to be guided in its nominations to rank and office wholly by other considerations than those of religious belief; and in the imperial family itself, among the remarkable instances which have occurred of the absence of religious intolerance, may be cited the circumstance of two brothers of the late Emperor Francis, the present Archdukes Charles and Joseph, having both formed their matrimonial unions beyond the pale of the Roman Catholic church. The latter (the actual Palatine of Hungary) has had three consorts, all of different religious professions,—the first being a member of the Greek church, the second of the Reformed or Calvinistic, and the third of the Lutheran communion. The Archduke Charles is now the widower of a Lutheran princess, whose demise, a few years since, afforded an interesting illustration of the sentiments and practice of the late emperor in matters of religious observance. It is the usual custom for the remains of members of the imperial family to be conveyed in state to the cathedral church of Saint Stephen, for the performance of the funeral rites, and thence to be transferred to the imperial vault in another district of the city. The emperor gave directions for the usual observance of the mournful solemnities; but the deceased having died, as she had lived, a Protestant, he ordered that the religious offices of her own community should be alone performed. The Archduke of Vienna, at the desire of the Nuncio, obtained an interview with the emperor, and represented the incongruity of Protestant services being exhibited in the Catholic cathedral. 'Tell the Nuncio,' said Francis, 'that this is no affair of his; the Archduchess must be buried as I have directed.' And so she was. The corpse was conveyed with all accustomed pomp to the cathedral, attended by the imperial family; there the Protestant services were performed, and the funeral oration pronounced by the chief of the Lutheran consistory; and from thence the cold remains passed on in the same solemn state to their long home, in the imperial vault beneath the Capuchin convent."

The system of perfect toleration, combined with that absolute controlling power in the Crown which constitutes the unity of principle in the benign disposition of Austria, is still more fully exhibited in the regulations respecting the non-Romish subjects of that empire:—

"It has been already stated that every person is registered as belonging to some one known religion, and that these are classified, for the purposes of government, under five general heads: the Romish, the Greeks, the Lutherans, the Calvinists, and the Jews. Until the reign of Joseph II., the Jews

laboured under heavy disabilities, many of which were removed by him, and the residue by Francis; so that except in regard to some peculiar questions relating to unions and divorces between Jews and Christians, and the exclusion from certain trades by the laws of some municipalities, they enjoy an equality of right in the German provinces, with all other subjects. The Greeks, besides their metropolitan and his seven suffragans in Hungary, have also an archbishop in Galicia, and bishops in several districts; but the Hebrew rulers and the Greek prelates are all named or confirmed by the crown, and all matters of church-government are subjected to its sanction. The system of the two Protestant classes demands a notice somewhat more detailed; before entering on which it must be premised, that if a religious sect, not properly included within any of the five enumerated classes, be sufficiently numerous to form a congregation (a circumstance of rare occurrence except in regard to foreigners,) a licence is readily granted for the performance of their religious offices in a private dwelling. To a clergyman of the Church of England, who intimated to the chief of police at Carlsbad his wish to perform the service to his countrymen there assembled, the reply was made, that 'his so doing would be in perfect conformity with the Toleration Edict, and with the feelings of the imperial government'; and, in point of fact, he did, during a part of two seasons, administer publicly the services and sacraments of the Church, either in his own apartments or in those of some other Englishman. Congregations of various religionists are thus formed and dissolved at Vienna and in other places, as temporary circumstances may occur to create them; but when a permanent place of worship is anywhere established, it is usually registered as appertaining to that one of the five principal classes, to which it is most nearly assimilated; and thus, when a Church of England Chapel was opened at Trieste, the minister was directed, as a matter of formal regularity, which, however, has led to no other consequence, to hold himself subordinate to the Lutheran Synod at Vienna."

The following extract is curious. Some of our readers will perhaps be surprised to find a Roman Catholic sovereign issuing an edict to the Protestant ministers of his empire, charging them to be "diligent in reading the *Scriptures*":

"Among the ordinances promulgated for the guidance of the Reformed churches by their Roman Catholic sovereign, some are not a little remarkable. I have one before me, issued in the latter years of the deceased Emperor Francis, in which the following duties, amidst many others, are strictly enjoined on the superintendents:—to give out Theses annually to the preachers for themes in all matters of theology, in order that their soundness and unity of doctrine may be preserved;—to establish reading societies, provided with clerical books approved by the consistory;—to give heed that those books only are used at schools which the consistory approve;—and that the Protestant youth, having been duly instructed and prepared, be brought to the superintendent for confirmation at the age of fourteen. The ordinance goes on to direct, that the parochial ministers shall administer duly the sacraments, catechize in churches and schools, be diligent in reading the *Scriptures*, especially those of the New Testament, and in expounding them according to the instructions which each superintendent is bound to give; in their sermons, to cause no controversy by new expositions or reasonings contrary to received opinions, 'or to waste time in fruitless speculations,' but simply and in simple language, to inculcate faith and morality. Ministers who disobey these instructions, and especially those who preach against other forms of religion, are to be denounced to the consistory and the Kreisamt; and, on repetition of the offence, after due admonition, to be suspended from their cures."

These regulations, says the author, "breathe the spirit of the Austrian rule. Peace is its aim and delight; and it sternly compresses the elements of disturbance in every branch of the civil and religious administration." Mr. Turnbull, at the same time, admits, that there are exceptions to the general respect for religious rights by which Austria is so honourably distin-

guished, and exceptions from which he anticipates considerable evils. The cause of complaint he refers to is, from recent events and discussions well known to the British public:—

"In mixed marriages, when the father is a Romanist, *all* the children must be brought up in the faith of Rome; but when the father is Protestant, the *sons* only follow his creed, and the daughters that of the mother. And again, in cases of conversion from one communion to another, the convert to Romanism is at once, and on his own desire, received into the bosom of the church; but the Romanist may not be received into a Protestant community until he shall have submitted to exhortations and instructions during six weeks from the Romish minister of the parish, and which may be extended, in cases of *stupid obstinacy*, to six weeks more!"

Formidable discouragements truly to the relinquishment of the Roman Catholic communion! The author also notices the existence at Vienna of a Romish proselytizing party, at direct variance with the policy of the empire. He is of opinion, that, were the late emperor still on the throne, such mischievous zeal would be repressed; and he indulges hopes of its repression even under the present monarch, whose intentions are better than his health and energies. Here we have a striking evidence of the precarious nature of the patriarchal or parental principle, and the instability of its results! The Austrian empire cannot always have a Francis and a Metternich. Under a weak prince, we see, by the above examples, how soon the best maxims of the government have been relaxed and corrupted. How easily, then, is it to conceive the fatal influence of a potentate possessing the energies of Joseph, without the virtues of Francis, or even so much as the "good intentions of the reigning emperor."

Much more interesting and important matter remains for notice in these volumes, and we shall recall the reader's attention to the subject in a future number.

The Hand-Book of Swindling. By the late Captain Barabbas Whitefeather, late of the Body-Guard of His Majesty, King Carlos; Treasurer of the British Wine and Vinegar Company; Trustee for the Protection of the River Thames from Incendiaries; Principal Inventor of Poyais Stock; Ranger of Saint George's Fields; Original Patentee of the Parachute Conveyance Association; Knight of every Order of the Fleece; S.C.A.M.P. & C.U.R. Edited by John Jackdaw. With Illustrations by Phiz. Chapman & Hall.

Captain Whitefeather has made a few clever hits in his little volume, but he is not (to use a critical technicality) quite "equal to his subject," and how should he be? *Swindling* is a transcendental theme; and if none but an Englishman could have experience of all its parts,—none but a German could reach its universalities. Now, though a true Whitefeather, in his time, plays many parts, he can't (to parody Mrs. Malaprop's notion of Cerberus) be two gentlemen at once. A true Body of Swindling, an Encyclopædia of False Pretence, is, moreover, not to be condensed, as the Captain himself allows, into a hand-book. There is more in the world than that every-day petty larceny which brings a man to the Old Bailey. That is the mere *pons asinorum* of the art; but of the finer and more reconnoitring secrets, the *secrets* worth knowing, these can only be glanced at, in a pocket volume.

Whitefeather, indeed, has a confused notion that there are more sorts of swindling than pass by the name, and he has instanced a few, which give us a measure of his philosophy. His theory is, indeed, comprehensive: "Depend upon it every man has within him a bit of the swindler;" and thus he strives to prove his case:—

"Let me put a case. You recollect Gloss, the retired merchant? What an excellent man was Gloss! A pattern man to make a whole generation by! Nobody could surpass him in what is called honesty, rectitude, moral propriety, and other gibberish. Well, Gloss joins a 'Board'; he becomes one of a community; and, immediately, the latent feeling asserts itself; he is a back-bone man with the rest of his brotherhood; and though as simple Gloss, and not a member of the board, he is the same as ever, yet when acting with his fellows, when one of the body corporate, when he merges the man Gloss in the board member, the inherent faculty becomes active, and he gratifies the instinct, or the refined reason, or whatever men agree to call it,—and complacently swindles with the rest."

Again:—

"Ask all the professions; demand of the lawyer, with yellow studious cheek, wherefore he should coin gold out of little strips of paper, written over by youthful scribe at two or three shillings per diem? Request him to give you the philosophy of costs—the exquisite mean of appearance and declaration, and reply, and rejoinder, and all the thousand terms invented by the most cunning class of labourers, the overseers at the building of Babel. Ask the sleek practitioner to what he owes his fortune? To common sense—to justice—to the fair and rational barter of labour for shillings? If, at the end of a long practice, there should by miracle remain in that attorney's bosom a throb of truth, he will blandly yet significantly smile at the words—the counters men play with—common sense and justice, and magnanimously and unblushingly declare his debt to swindling! Is it otherwise with the physician, who sells his guesses for truths, and doubts and doubts a patient into the grave, whilst his medicinal palm is open for the guinea? When the tradesman—his housemaid at the time perhaps in Bridewell, for petty larceny committed on the grease-pot—when he, smiling across the counter at his victim, puts off knowingly the poorest commodity at the highest price, how stands he in relation to his captive housemaid? Why, Rebecca has robbed, but the tradesman has only driven his trade: the slut has for ever and for ever lost her character, with it seven pounds *per annum*, and, it may be, tea and sugar included—but for Mr. Jackson, her master, he has turned the profit penny; he has—but all in the way of business—swindled! All mankind may be divided into two classes; the swindlers according to custom and to law, and the swindlers according to the bent of their natural genius."

This is smart; but, in Horatian phrase, it is known to the blear-eyed and the barber. What the public want is a development of that interior science, that marrow of the art, which relates to those who will call you out or set an Attorney-General upon you, if you too plainly hint at their calling. Macchiavelli wrote a very pretty book on political swindling. As for the diplomatic branch, it suffices to point to the solemn invocation which opens every treaty from the first *trêve de Dieu* to the last Holy Alliance, in order to be satisfied that such documents were, one and all, no better than so many downright frauds. Whitefeather, to do him justice, touches upon the high transcendental of jurisprudential swindling in the following:—

"Jack Smasher was one of the prettiest hands at coining; and more, he was blessed with a wife born, I should say, with a genius for passing bad money. She took a crown—one of her husband's base-begotten offspring—and purchased with it three-pennyworth of rhubarb from a quaker chemist, who—undone man!—handed over four-and-ninepence change. Aminadab Straightback was, even among his brethren, the brightest child of truth. In due season Aminadab detected the guileful crown, and, in his own clear breast, resolved to destroy it. However, it remained by the strangest accident in his till, and by an accident still more extraordinary, was given in part of change for a guinea to a gentleman a little the worse for liquor, who, on his way home to bed took the precaution of dropping into Straightback's for a box of—his own patent—anti-bacchic pills. In the morning, the vinous gentleman discovered the

pocket-piece, but as he had changed more than one guinea, could not with certainty detect the giver of the counterfeit. No matter: it remained loose with other money in his pocket, and one day, to his own surprise, he found he had passed it. He had taken a journey, and it was very dark when, in the handsomest manner, he feed the coachman. The poor man who drove the Tallyho did not realize more than 400*l.* per annum, and could not afford to lose five shillings; hence, Smasher's crown became, at a fitting opportunity, the property of a sand-blind old gentlewoman, who, her loss discovered, lifted up her hands at the iniquity of the world, and put aside the brassy wickedness. The good old soul never missed a charity sermon. The Reverend Mr. Sulphurtongue made a sweet discourse in favour of the conversion of the Jews, and the churchwardens condescended to hold each a plate. To the great disgust of the discoverers, a bad crown was detected amongst the subscribed half-crowns and shillings. The beadle was directed to destroy it. He intended to do so, but, in pure forgetfulness, passed it one day for purl; the landlady of the 'George' having, as she said, 'taken it, was resolved not to lose it,' and by some accident it was given to a pedlar, who, after a walk of twenty miles, entered an ale-house, took his supper of bread and cheese—went to bed—rose, and professed for his account Jack Smasher's pocket-piece. The pedlar was immediately given into the hands of constable, taken before a magistrate, and ordered to be imprisoned and whipped as a passer of counterfeit money."

This is the true "handy-dandy, which is the justice, which the thief;" but why, Captain, not a word on corn laws, or trade restrictions, the American liberty for the blacks; or on the twenty millions sacked by the West India planters, on something very like false pretences? It is too plain that Whitefeather (all accomplished as he is) has yet his trade to learn. He is, notwithstanding, capable of a clever hit, knocking down absurdities by the way, without pausing in his course, as a coachman will cut a butterfly out of the hedge as he drives along the road. Let us instance one:—

"Fighting is, indeed, a mechanic trade; millions can fight—but how few can gracefully swindle! We know, that the result of both operations is often the same, but how inferior one to the other! Buonaparte brought a few pictures from Italy, which the world—Heaven knows!—made noise enough about. In warlike phrase, he 'took them' from a vanquished people: a poor, shabby act to brag of; but had he, unassisted by squadrons and battalions, and parks of artillery,—had he, by the unassisted efforts, of his own mind, with no other masked battery, no other weapon than his own hand, and his own tongue,—had he robbed one dealer of a Correggio—another of a Raphael—a third of a Titian—a fourth of a Murillo—and so on,—it had, indeed, been an achievement to boast of; but to crack of the incident as one of the trophies of the army of Italy, was the sublime of gasconading!"

One more of the Captain's "regular facers," and we have done. It is apropos to his own unsuccessful efforts to find a publisher:—

"One was tickled by the title, but looked blank when he understood that there was no murderer—no highwayman in it. He declared that the only way to keep a reader awake was to commit at least one murder in every page; that the gallows was now the only bay-tree; and that even the youthful generation sucked intelligence and morals from tales of the gibbet, with the same eagerness and the same advantage that they sucked liquorice-root! 'Season it, sir,—season it,' said one bland gentleman, 'with a handful of murders—a terrific storm on the New River—and a miraculous escape from Marylebone watch-house, and there may be some hopes of it.'

We must now take our leave of Captain Whitefeather, apologizing to our readers for detaining them so long with such a trifle—but this is Carnival time, and trifling is the order of the day.

ANTHOLOGY FOR 1840.

THERE are hours when we had rather write a volume than read one, and never do we feel this effract spirit so strong within us as when duty calls on us to prepare one of these Anthologies. It may originate, perhaps, in the fact that the works which then come under consideration, though wearisome in themselves, are often suggestive. Thus, while turning listlessly over some two dozen now before us, we have been struck with the vague and wild notions which many of the writers betray respecting the very art they profess, in those proprietary and confidential words addressed to the "gentle reader." Among the many mysteries which seem to perplex these dreamers, the most mystical is imagination: it is, if we take their word for it, a sort of will-o'-the-wisp, leading them "through fire and through flame, through ford and whirlpool"—an unreal mockery, which assumes all shapes, yet has none—subtle, evanescent, aerial, and so forth. Well, grant this, so is smoke, so is hydrogen gas; yet, with all their subtlety, it is possible for those who are masters of the art, to lay hold of, and to analyze them. Even so may it not be with that intangible thing called imagination? Imagination is, by ninety-nine out of the hundred of these writers, confounded with creativeness—is understood to be a faculty whereby the mind raises up visions of its own, seeing that which is invisible to all else, and giving forth shape, and colour, and form, which have their birth and being only in the mind. In truth, it is no such thing, but rather a faithful copyist and recorder of the things which have existence in the world of nature, and its fidelity may be tested by every man's experience.

A poet, whether he write in prose or verse, endeavours to set before the reader a scene of beauty or sublimity, and to create in the reader's mind a sensation of enjoyment; but this he cannot do, unless he has an image of the scene he would describe in his own mind. He may have a strong literal recollection, but, unless he have also a feeling recollection, he cannot depict the scene. He must see it in his mind's eye, or he cannot make another see it. He may describe that which has no being, but unless a reader comprehends that which the poet has imagined forth, how can he know whether the poet has a fine imagination or not? It is very true that a poet may describe scenery which those to whom he describes it have never beheld; but they know the elements of which it is composed, and they can ascertain its fidelity so far; and indeed there cannot be a better test of the poet's imagination, than his power of making objects visible to the mind's eye. Then comes the question, wherein does imagination differ from reality? and what is the distinction between seeing a landscape, and a poet's description of it, if the merit of the description be tested by its power of bringing reality before the eye? Let the questioner observe attentively his own feelings. All our emotions of liking and disliking—admiring or abhorring—may perhaps be resolved into sympathy and antipathy: our sense of beauty into a sympathy with kindness; our sense of sublimity into a sympathy with power. Now the living cannot sympathize with the dead, nor the intellectual with the unintellectual; therefore, in all our admiration of Nature we have a sense of the livingness of that which we admire, whether we admire it for its beauty or its grandeur. Hence the origin of that first element of poetry called personification. On beholding a beautiful scene with emotion of admiration, we give it a kind of life, and it seems to return us look for look, and smile for smile—it partakes as it were of our own gladness, for gladness cannot be solitary. The reader has no doubt felt, on his first entrance into a Gallery of Pictures, especially if there have been but few or no spectators present, a strange sensation of solitude,—the world appeared to have receded from him, and to have left him alone and desolate. But then, as he grew familiar with the pictures, he has not felt a warmth and cheerfulness come over him as though he had entered a new world? What was the sensation of coldness and isolation on first entering? Was it not the transition of sympathy? The spirit of the life within had not at first gone forth to blend itself with the beautiful creations of the artist. It should seem that all our pleased admiration is sympathy as with life, and that we take nodding delight in what has no life; hence to express our

disgust of those productions of art which fail to excite our sympathy, we say that there is no life in them—they are dead, stale, flat, and unprofitable. He, therefore, who would vividly picture anything to another, must strongly image forth the object in his own mind,—there must be a deep sympathy with the object he describes, a sympathy with the life of it. Hence all poetical epithets are more or less descriptive of living qualities, and many which, on their first use, were truly poetical, and indicative of imagination in him who used them, having become common, are repeated without feeling, and now show a lack of imagination; so that poetical language may be and often is used by unpoetical people, and is a strong evidence that they do not feel what they affect to feel.

Here we discover the meaning of that which to many appears a mystery; the weariness which the world seems to feel of poetry—a weariness with which we in an especial manner may be supposed to sympathize. But in truth, as we have more than once observed, the world is not weary of poetry, but weary of endless disappointment; it has been smothered with dry sapless verses falling thick as withered leaves in autumn; it is weary of a passionless and lifeless repetition of worn-out metaphors and trite epithets, which give token only of a wish unseconded by power—of aspiration mistaken for inspiration. This arises from want of imagination, together with a strong desire for the results of imagination, so that they who have not the capacity to image forth for themselves, use the words of those who have, or if not the very words, they take such as are synonymous or equivalent. Imagination, then, is not invention, but the power of calling up before the mind's eye objects with which humanity sympathizes; and that so vividly, that they excite sympathy, and a living emotion strong enough to be able to communicate itself to others through the medium of words.

There is, we acknowledge, something curious and subtle in the general faculty which seems to belong to the reading public, of discovering whether the words which are written by the pen proceed directly from the heart. This, indeed, is not always found out at first—no, nor in one generation—but experience proves that the author who sympathizes strongly with, and presses Nature closely to his bosom, speaks most effectually to the general sympathies, and will share in Nature's immortality. Among the most distinguished of our countrymen who have shown this deep sympathy, we may mention Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Fielding, and Goldsmith: the writings of these men must please so long as summer and winter, sunshine and shade, fruits and flowers, joys and sorrows, interest human hearts. They wrote of what they saw, knew, felt, and understood. It is not true that Shakespeare

Exhausted worlds, and then imagined new,—
he did not exhaust one world, nor had his imaginings
anything to do with any other than the visible and
existing flesh-and-blood world we live in. These men
wrote well, because they felt strongly and saw clearly:
Nature to them was naked, save that Milton saw her
through the graceful vest of learning,—covering but
not concealing, clothing but not disguising.

The multitude of our small poets are prone to consider imagination as an inventive faculty, because they image but imperfectly themselves—do not see one-half of that which is within the range of their vision. Another points it out, and awakens their sympathy, and they fancy that he creates that which he only reveals. Nature, indeed, is exhaustless, and the sympathies of a fine humanity with the visible and internal invisible world are so numberless and subtle, that no limit, even in thought, can be placed to the combinations and revelations of a strong imaginative mind. And most curious it is to observe how utterly impossible it is for the world to anticipate or conceive of any coming genius. No one anticipated Shakespeare, yet he set forth nothing more than was in the world of nature, visible to all eyes, audible to all ears. Nor did the world foresee the Waverley Novels, or know the want of them, yet they do but delineate the existing. Lord Byron has created nothing, but he has revealed much.—But enough, and perhaps more than enough of these speculations, next week we shall resume our "task of servile toil."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Black's British Atlas, by Sydney Hall.—Eight or nine years have elapsed since Sydney Hall was buried, and yet here we find his name affixed to the first number of an Atlas in course of publication. Posthumous fame is of course well known to authors and to artists, but this is the first instance of posthumous labours that we have met with. Further examination of this Atlas shows us that some of the plates are old; others are reductions of Sydney Hall's Atlas published in his lifetime; and a few are compiled from later and better sources. But these latter are not sufficiently numerous to raise the work above mediocrity.

Knight's Patent Illuminated Maps.—This is a meritorious attempt to find a cheap mode of executing and printing maps, but we fear that type and illumination, that is to say, diffused colour, can never rival the neatness and beauty of engraving; and as to extreme accuracy, which ought to be the first consideration, that is rendered unattainable by the nature of the process.

An Illustrated Atlas, Geographical, Statistical, and Historical of the United States and the Adjacent Countries, by T. G. Bradford.—We would willingly dispense with "illustrations" in an Atlas, and though the Geographical, Statistical, and Historical notices which accompany the several maps in the work before us, contain a great deal of well-condensed and well-arranged matter, they tend to increase the price without any proportionate advantage. In this instance, it is the more to be regretted, as the Atlas is a good substantive work, and able to stand alone on its own merits.

Gilbert's Modern Atlas of the Earth; with descriptive Letterpress, by Robert Mudie.—This Atlas is neatly executed and of convenient size. Here again, however, we would gladly dispense with the letterpress for a small reduction in the price.

The World, Stereographically projected on the plane of the Horizon of London, by W. Hughes.—This map is a beautiful specimen of the art of engraving, which we presume it was intended to exhibit; for owing to the defect of the stereographic projection, in which the scale varies in all directions from the centre of the plan, a map of a hemisphere so constructed is utterly useless.

The Naval and Military Almanac, by W. H. Maxwell, Esq., has the merit, a rare one, of being strictly professional. It is illustrated with portraits of Nelson, Hawke, Rodney, Lord Hill, St. Vincent, Exmouth, Codrington, and the Marquess of Anglesey, with sketches of the "Pass of the Tagus," "Fording the Mondego," "The Charge of the Guards at Waterloo," "The Victory lying in Portsmouth Harbour," "The Death of Nelson," a fac-simile of an original letter by the latter, with plans, signals, &c.

The Practical Chemist's Pocket Guide, by William Hope, M.D.—There is neither preface nor explanatory introduction to this little work, and it is difficult from the work itself to discover exactly the aim and end the compiler had in view. Though in the title-page it is called "The Practical Chemist's Pocket Guide," yet in the body of the work it is spoken of as "The Young Chemist's Pocket Guide." Now neither the style nor the experiments selected are particularly well adapted for young students, whilst on the other hand, if the work were intended to assist the memory of those whose studies are further advanced, it is still more obviously defective.

Chemistry no Mystery, or a Lecturer's Bequest, by John Scoffern.—A pretty little book, written in an unaffected easy style, and well adapted as an introduction to the study of Chemistry.

The Decameron of the West.—A collection of tales, some Scottish, some of the Peninsular war—one, "The Spectre Barber," a translation from the "Stumme Liebe" of Musäus, heretofore better rendered by Mr. Carlyle.

Manners and Trials of the Primitive Christians, by the Rev. R. Jamieson.—The compiler of this little work has compressed into a small compass the information scattered through the works of Harles, Bingham, Cave and Fleury. He has drawn a picture of early piety and simplicity which possesses great charms, but he has not added the shading, nor taken any notice of the errors, both in faith and doctrine, by which the purity of Christianity began to be sullied even so early as the days of the apostles.

List of New Books.—The Works of William Channing, D.D., 3rd Glasgow edit. 4 vols. post 8vo. cl. 24s.—Tait's Edinburgh Magazine, 1839, Vol. VI. royal 8vo. cl. 12s.—Confessions of Harry Lorrequer, 1 vol. 8vo. cl. 12s.—A Winter in Iceland and Lapland, by the Hon. A. Dillon, 2 vols. 8vo. 21s.—The Thousand and One Nights, translated by Lane, Vol. II. super-royal 8vo. cl. 28s.—The Real and the Ideal, or Illustrations of Travel, 2 vols. post 8vo. cl. 21s.—The Czar, a New Romance of History, 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d.—The Savoy Jack and the Indianian, by a Blue Jacket, 2 vols. post 8vo. 18s.—Archbold's Bankrupt Law, by Flather, 8th edit. 12mo. 21s.—Owen on the Hebrews, new edit. 4 vols. 8vo. 56s.—Carmichael's Disquisitions of the Theology and Metaphysics of Scripture, &c. 2 vols. 8vo. cl. 21s.—Ancient Christianity, by the Author of "Spiritual Despotism," Vol. I. 8vo. cl. 16s. 6d.—Blundell's Principles and Practice of Obstetrics, with Observations on some of the more important Diseases of Women, notes by Castle, 8vo. bds. 21s.—Blundell's Principles and Practice of Obstetric Medicine, edited by Mr. Lee and Dr. Rogers, 8vo. cl. lettered, 24s.—Savory's Companion to the Medicine Chest, 2nd edit. 18mo. cl. 5s.—Dr. Hunter's Compendium of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, 18mo. cl. 5s.—Dr. Millingen's Aphorisms on the Treatment and Management of the Insane, 18mo. cl. 4s. 6d.—Hand-Book of Chemistry, 12mo. cl. lettered, 6s.—The East India Register and Directory for 1840, 8vo. swd. 10s.—Barlow's Tables of Squares, Cubes, &c. new edit. examined and corrected, roan, 12mo. swd. 8s.—Poetical Works of Ebenezer Elliott, the Corn Law Rhymer, 8vo. swd. 4s.—The Steam-Engine, by Hugo Reid, 2nd edit. enlarged, fe. cl. 4s. 6d.—Parley's Christmas, new edit. square cl. 7s. 6d.—Thompson's Sermons in Critical Times, royal 12mo. 6s. 6d.—Turner's Lives of Eminent Unitarians, fe. cl. 7s. 6d.—Beren's Twenty-five Village Sermons, 2nd edit. 12mo. 5s. 6d.—The Life of Christ, Companion to Scripture Biography for the Young, square 16mo. 3s. 6d.—Hooke's Family Prayers, 18mo. 3rd edit. 2s.—Guy's Atlas to Modern Geography, coloured, 5s. 4to. and 8vo.—Life of Wellington, by Soane, Vol. II. 18mo. cl. 5s.—Saul's Arithmetic, 12mo. 12th edit. 2s. sheep.—A Visit to London, new edit. 18mo. cl. 2s. 6d.—Holy Thoughts, or Treasury of True Riches, crown 32mo. new edit. 1s. 6d. cl. 2s. silk.—Publisher's Circular, London Catalogue of Books, 1840, 1s. 6d. swd.—Green's Useful Knowledge, 18mo. cl. 1s. 6d.—The People's Letter Bag and Penny Postage Act Companion, 18mo. swd.—Todd's Simple Sketches, 32mo. cl. 2s.—Todd's Truth made Simple, 32mo. cl. 2s.—Todd's Lectures to Children, 32mo. cl. 2s.—Evans's Sermon on the late Chartists' Insurrection, 8vo. swd. 1s.

PROMETHEUS.

(FROM THE GERMAN OF GOETHE.)

"Go, Zeus! thy lofty skies enshroud
In veiling Mist and rolling Cloud,
Go! use thy arm in striking down
The Giant-oak, or Mountain's crown,
E'en as a Child, in fields at play
Might crop the thistles in his way;
My World still stands must thou leave,

The Hut thy hands did not prepare,
My Hearth's bright flame, which thou may'st grieve
In envy that thou can't not share!

Gods!—of all Beings know I none
More pitiful beneath the Sun!
With Prayer, which is but breath,—with things
That are extorted offerings
You thronged ones are scantily fed!

And ye would famish, were it not
Alike the Child's and Beggar's lot

To be by Hope's delusions led.
When I was young and yet to learn
Unknowing where my heart to turn,
My wilder'd eye I upward rais'd,
To where the Sun above me blaz'd,
As if there dwelt an Ear to heed
My Sorrow's voice—as if indeed
There dwelt a heart like mine—still bless'd
To view with Pity the oppress'd.

Who gave me succour or defence
Against the Titan's insolence?
Or whose the hand that rescued me
From Death or bitter Slavery?

Prometheus! was it not thine own

Warm-glowing heart achieved it all?
And hast thou not thy Love made known,
Thy simple confidence not shown,

When on you Slumberer thou didst call,
And poor, deceived, in earnest prayer
Warm thanks for preservation there?

Why should I worship thee? Hast thou
E'er lighten'd from their galling woes
Such as 'neath heavy burdens bow?

When hast thou stilled the tears of those
Who, torn with anguish, could not find
The healing for a troubled mind?

Almighty Time—eternal Fate,
Rulers alike of thee and me,

Was it not these that did create
My form of Man's mortality?

Perchance arose in thee the Thought
I should a hate of Life be taught,
And to the Desert fly !
Because not all the Flowers that sprung
My early-vision'd dreams among
Have ripen'd to mine eye !
No ! here I sit, to fashion men
After my Image, who may then
Hereafter prove a Race like me,
To weep, enjoy, rejoice, or mourn—
Yet all unheeding thine or thee
Shall scorn thee, e'en as I do scorn !"

L. F.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Madrid, December.

I promised to forward you a copy of the Report of the Society on Education, and I now keep my word, and only regret that no opportunity has before offered. With respect to literature, you will perhaps be surprised to hear that, situated as this country has long been, and is still, in the midst of two powerful contending factions, and distracted by internal divisions, it has of late received an unexpected impulse, and that some works of great merit were published in the course of last year, and that others are now in the press,—affording abundant proofs that Spain is not so far behind in the path of civilization as it has been the object of acera in fiction in England to represent. As indeed literary intelligence from the Peninsula is not to be had easily in London, and as I cannot but hope that the taste for Spanish literature still continues there among many old friends, I shall send you a brief summary of the literary movement, leaving you room and verge enough to review at length such works as, by their importance, seem to deserve a more extensive notice.

The celebrated Breton de los Herreros, whom French critics have lately compared to Scribe, for his fecundity and talents, continues to give proofs of his inexhaustible resources, and to delight the dramatic public. Besides a very ingenious comedy, called '*Una Vieja*' (an old woman), acted with considerable success in the theatres of the capital, he has lately produced an admirable drama called '*Vellido Dofos*', in which the assassination of Sancho II. of Castile, before the walls of Zamora, the ambitious views of Urraca, the sister of Alfonso VI. the conqueror of Toledo, the almost fabulous exploits of the Cid, and other soul-stirring events of that remarkable period, by far the most romantic of Spanish history, are brought upon the scene with admirable tact and skill—with a power hardly inferior to that of Calderon, and the other dramatists of the golden age of Spanish literature. Another drama, by a young poet, named Principe, entitled '*El Conde Don Julian*', founded on the lamentable catastrophe which threw the Spanish peninsula into the hands of the conquering Arabs, has been acted at Saragossa—the author's native city—with so much success, that for several nights after its performance the young Poet was obliged to appear more than once on the stage, amidst the enthusiastic cheers and deafening shouts of the audience. Another dramatic performance of the same kind, '*Blanca de Castilla*', by a promising youth named Figueira, as well as '*Philip II.*', by Maldonado, and '*Carlos II. el hechizado*', may be read with great interest by the lovers of Spanish literature. A learned history of '*The Counts of Barcelona*', by Don Prospero Bofarull, keeper of the Royal Archives of Arragon, has met with considerable praise for the research, impartial judgment, and sound criticism, with which it is written. Don Andres Murriel has also lately published a volume of interesting memoirs and inedited papers respecting the glorious reign of Charles III., and the enlightened administration of his ministers, Aranda and Floridablanca; besides a translation of the popular work of your countryman Coxe,* which he has rendered still more valuable by the addition of critical and historical notes, and the publication of several authentic papers which had escaped his research. Martinez de la Rosa has also given to the public another volume of his political and philosophical work, entitled '*El Espíritu del Siglo*' (The Spirit of the Age), as well as the second volume of his interesting historical novel, '*Isabel de Solis*'. An epic poem, called '*Pelayo*', by Rui de la Vega, lately a member of the Spanish

Government, is in the course of publication, as well as an extensive work by Don José Mariano Vallejo, 'On the Mineral Riches of the Peninsula.' To the indefatigable labours of the chairman of the Royal Society of History, the literary world is indebted for two more volumes of his valuable collection of '*Voyages of Discovery made by the Spanish Navigators during the 15th and 16th centuries*'. I shall not notice the numerous translations which have lately issued from the press, among which, however, are included many of the standard works in French and English literature, nor the innumerable novels with which the press in Spain, as elsewhere, is infested: although some of the latter are really deserving of notice for their originality, or the talents displayed in them. One, in particular, entitled '*Moros y Cristianos*', (Moors and Christians), is a spirited little work by a young writer, already known to the literary world by some fugitive poems under the name of *El Solitario*. I have read it with great pleasure, and know not which most to admire, the originality of the conception, the purity and elegance of the style, or the beautiful poetry interspersed throughout, in imitation of the ancient pastoral romances. New editions of the Spanish classics are published every day, as well as pictorial ones of Don Quixote, Gil Blas, and other popular works. Periodical literature thrives also; there are at this moment no less than sixteen quarterly, monthly, or weekly publications, entirely devoted to science or literature.

Paris, January 18th.

Two years ago, while writing to you from hence, I described the exhibition of part-singing, directed by M. Mainzer, in the Place de l'Estrapade.—[See *Athenæum*, No. 527.] This time, I have been admitted to the inspection of the singing classes among the operatives, organized according to M. Wilhem's system, which seems, of the two, to be considered the more generally successful in its results. Without examining how far popular opinion may or may not have of late unjustly connected the merits of M. Mainzer's method of instruction with the little honour awarded to him as a composer—his opera '*La Jacquerie*', upon its recent production at the Theatre de la Renaissance, having, on account of its want of variety, been sarcastically characterized in the *feuilleton* of M. Berlioz as "an opera in *re*" (the key of *D*)—it is certain that M. Wilhem's plan has been adopted in schools of a high order, as well as among the public of the markets and boulevards—that it has been circulated over the continent, and is now in England, having been recently taken thither by some professors, who intend introducing it in London. Hence it is needless for me, were I qualified, here to discuss it analytically—I am still less able to furnish a connected sketch of the whole process; but a leaf from my journal, in which is chronicled my Saturday evening's occupation, may afford some far-off idea of one of its best features—namely, its providing adequate and simultaneous interest and occupation for scholars of every degree, from the urchin, on his first evening's entrance from the *quai* or alley, progressively upward to the well-practised monitor, so firm in scientific knowledge, that he is able not only to read, at sight, a single *solfeggio* from Steffani, Durante, and Handel, of any intricacy, but also to maintain his own part in proper style and spirit, however complicated be the whole, of which that part is only a third or a fourth.

As I was too early for the *Halle des Draps*, where the pupils assemble, I killed an hour at the Concert Valentino, which can scarcely be said to have survived the now extinct Concert Musard: for I only allude here to its excellent orchestra, but dolefully thin audience, for the significance of the latter, as a sign and a warning to those who, interested in the popular acceptance of music, believe that any nighting shilling instrumental concert can keep a permanent hold on public interest. Compared with its tawdry saloon, and the handful of people who yawned upon its benches, the dark, dingy *Halle des Draps*, filled with busy, industrious individuals, wore an air of animation and rational enjoyment which was delightful. I was present at the drilling of a class of men, of all ages, and, it seemed, of all conditions. When the moment for commencement arrived, the entire party was separated into twenty

or thirty smaller companies, each numbering some fifteen or twenty individuals—each, too, under the guidance of a monitor, who referred to an exercise board in aid of his explanations. Thus arranged, they extended round the room, leaving its centre free for the superintendent, who, baton and tuning-fork in hand, presided over their exercises. Nearest the door were the new-comers, to whom their monitor was explaining the numbers of notes in the scale, and their names, "*Do, re, mi*," &c.—availing himself, at the same time, of an ingenious *memoria technica*, which is one of the peculiar inventions of M. Wilhem's system, and in which the fingers, and the spaces between them, are employed by the neophyte to represent to himself the octave and its divisions. The next knot consisted of those who, having learned their notes, were reading *verbally*, not *verbally*, a scale-exercise, in which some of the simplest divisions of rhythm and tune were inculcated. A third group was studying the first intervals—the hand alphabet which I have mentioned being employed by all, and every pupil being compelled to read and count his exercise ere he attempted to sing it:—while a fourth party was taking in fifths, sevenths, ninths, &c.; and so on, until those were progressively reached who were firm and ready enough to attack a composition in two or more parts. It was so arranged, that while one section of the pupils was singing, others might continue their *reading practice* undisturbed; and, from a careful inspection of the whole, resulted the impression, that no element of music was overlooked, or its comprehension empirically forced upon the pupil before he was prepared for its reception. I ought to add, that the exercises commenced and closed by the whole body singing the scale together: first, the notes of the common chord—then the tones and semi-tones of the octave, ascending and descending, *pianissimo* and *fortissimo*—now detached, now bound—then in thirds—lastly, in a full harmony, of three parts. The effect of this, from the purity, firmness, and sweetness of the tone, was very fine.

If I was musically pleased with the results of a system so comprehensive in its operation, I was no less morally gratified by the diligence and respectable demeanour of the learners. The mature man of forty (and there were many such in the company) was not more sedulous or attentive than the *gamin* of twelve, with his longer life of a tenor or bass voice before him. There was no rude joking—no making a pretext of the presence of strangers as inquisitive as myself, for carelessness or want of application. All seemed interested, because amused, by that healthiest of all amusements, the reception of new ideas, upon a subject in itself welcome and agreeable. I must insist, moreover, that M. Wilhem's method, here carried into effect by his able pupil, M. Hubert, seems excellent, as inculcating, from the first, some principles of style as well as of science. Of this, I had confirmatory proof in the exercises gone through by the monitors after their pupils were dismissed. These young men first read, and afterwards sang, *solfeggi* of great complication and difficulty, at first in single parts, then in combination; and this, not merely with a mechanical firmness, which no syncopation, or protracted division, or difficult interval, or accidental sharp or flat, could shake; but with a feeling for that expression and regulation of phrase, which, when in perfection, almost as much as physical attainment, distinguishes a Thalberg or a Mendelssohn from the well-trained child, who makes impartial friends yawn with her *pianism* at holiday-tide! In short, all that I saw and heard satisfied me highly at the moment—satisfies me yet more completely on reflection.

H.F.C.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We alluded, some time since, to the very interesting collection of objects in illustration of Ethnography and Natural History, collected by Mr. Schomburgk during his several expeditions into the interior of Guiana, the El Dorado of Sir Walter Raleigh. The collection is now open to the public at 209, Regent Street. It consists of more than 500 articles, including the warlike instruments and manufactures of the Indians; and three of the Indians who accompanied Mr. Schomburgk attend, to show the manner of using the peculiar weapons. The collection of

* Memoirs of the Kings of the House of Bourbon.

Natural History is very extensive and interesting, and includes a specimen of the Pirarucu (*Sudis gigas*), a fresh-water fish, which occasionally attains the length of twelve feet. There is also a drawing, the size of nature, of that wonder of the botanical world, the *Victoria Regia*, the leaf of which is from five to six feet in diameter,—and a geological collection of specimens, showing the formation of the district.

In the foreign world of Literature, we may mention, as another of the signs of the times, the publication, at Leipzig, of the dramatic works of Her Royal Highness the Princess Amelia of Saxony. With these dramas, thirteen in number, and for the most part what are called in Germany *Conversationsstücke*—conversation pieces,—the English public will shortly have the means of making acquaintance, through the medium of a translation, which Mrs. Jameson is about to publish, under the title of 'Social Life in Germany,' as illustrated in the Comedies of Her Royal Highness the Princess Amelia of Saxony, and preceded by a sketch of German manners, written by herself, and intended to facilitate their comprehension and explain their allusions.

In a letter which Signor Visconti, the Commissary of Antiquities at Rome, has addressed to M. Raoul Rochette, and which the latter has communicated to the French Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres, some interesting details are given of an antiquarian discovery, recently made in that city. It has been ascertained that the *Sacred Island* of the Tiber is surrounded by the remains of ancient tombs, belonging to two different periods,—the most remote that of the Antonines, and the most recent that of Alexander Severus. In such of these tombs as have preserved their interior or chamber undisturbed, have been found, in addition to the inscriptions which still remain, several sarcophagi, of which the one in the highest state of preservation represents the recognition of Achilles at Syros. The subject is already made familiar by a great number of old bas-reliefs, —all repetitions of one original,—but no one of which approaches the present in point of preservation and integrity. Another interesting piece of intelligence is, that the Pope, on the suggestion of Signor Visconti, has ordered excavations to be made in the neighbourhood of the Roman Forum, close to the Basilica Giulia. These labours, which will be under the direction of the learned Commissary, are expected to produce results of much interest and value to the archaeologist and historian. The same letter announces, too, the election of Prince Odellcaschi, brother to the Cardinal, to the Presidency of the Roman Archaeological Academy, in the room of the Marquis Biondi, lately deceased. While on the subject of antiquities, we may add that the Antiquarian Society of the North, on presenting, by a deputation, its respectful congratulations to King Christian the Eighth, on his accession to the throne of Denmark, took occasion to express a hope that the share which his Majesty had taken in their labours before his elevation, would be continued in the shape, at least, of encouragement and protection; and that the King has promised his cordial co-operation in their scientific objects.

A letter from Messrs. Didron and Durand, whom we mentioned, last week, as engaged in sketching the Christian monuments in the East, gives an account of their visit to Mount Athos, the "Holy Land" of the Greeks. Twenty large monasteries, surrounded by battlemented walls, and defended by donjons, which are called arsenals, ten villages, two hundred and forty cells or farm-houses, and one hundred and sixty hermitages, the whole peopled with monks alone, in number six thousand, confer this character of sanctity upon the mountain, which is unparalleled throughout the world. The capital of these towns, villages, and solitary houses, is the town of Kares, also peopled by monks, and the seat of their government and ecclesiastical tribunal. Eight hundred and sixty churches are scattered over Mount Athos; two hundred in the monasteries, three hundred in the villages, two hundred in the cells, and about one hundred and sixty chapels in the hermitages. M. Didron and his companion were received in the most friendly manner by the monks, who freely exhibited to them the treasures of their churches, the sanctuaries, from which all but priests are usually excluded, and the libraries filled with valuable manuscripts. The travellers have brought from the sacred

mountain many drawings of its monuments, and notes of interest on its libraries and interior economy, as well as on the political administration of this republic of monks.

We mentioned, some time ago, the discovery in the Marché de la Santé, in Paris, of some ancient statues, whose mutilated forms were turned to the "vile uses" if not of "stopping holes to keep the wind away," of serving as boundary marks; and were supposed to include the royal images which disappeared during the revolution from the great gate of Notre Dame. They are, it appears, fifteen in number—marked with the fearful moral of the times, when they fell from their high places, being all decapitated. It is proposed to transfer them to the museum founded by the city in the *Thermes de Julian*, in the Rue de la Harpe. Like some others of the illustrations of past centuries which perished in that great convulsion, it seems they can no more be restored to their integrity nor replaced on their old pedestals: and they are henceforth to rank amongst the broken idols whose worship the antiquarian adopts, when (and because) the votary has abandoned it. Their place is marked amongst those strange collections of old things, whose materials present to the eye of the sage the significant characters in which the great episodes of history are read,—in one of those institutions where, under the title of Museums, the fires on the altars of wisdom are fed by every spar and fragment gathered from the thousand wrecks that lie scattered along the silent and deserted shores of the past.

In Art, we may mention a very elegant little work of sculpture just completed for the Duke of Orleans, by M. de Friquet, the artist of the bronze gates destined for the Church of the Madeleine. It is dedicated to the great poets of Italy, and consists of a bronze vase on a triangular marble base. The sides of the vase are enriched by a bas-relief, one half of which represents Dante led by Virgil to the feet of Homer; and on the other is wrought the triumph of Chastity, after Petrarch: the whole composition being crowned by two winged angels, forming the handles of the vase. In the three faces of the pedestal, or base, are three niches, holding small statues of Beatrice, Laura, and Vittoria Colonna; and above these, near the cornice, are busts of Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto, and Tasso.

In theatricals, our approaching connexion with Saxe Gotha may make it interesting to our readers to know that a new theatre, copied after that of the *Renaissance*, in Paris, has been opened this month, in the capital of that state, with Meyerbeer's opera of 'Robert the Devil'; at which the Duke was present with his family and court. At the Théâtre Français, the anniversary of the birth of Molière, on the 15th of January, has been celebrated as usual by the performance of two of his comedies. One of these, the *Malade Imaginaire*, seems to have been chosen on the occasion for reasons which would have induced us, of all the great writer's plays, to shun this particular one for such a purpose. It was while performing this part, that the illustrious Molière (France has no name in all her literature standing more conspicuously as the representative of genius,) having gone down to the theatre in spite of all remonstrance, rather than suffer, as he said, some fifty poor actors and assistants, who had no other dependence, to lose their day's bread—died before the audience. It was while representing the mimic pangs of the fanciful sick man, that he was going through the long and real agony of dying—amid the laughter and plaudits of the idolizing public, that he stood within the shadow of his grave. The incomparable humour of this wonderful performer is for ever saddened by the memory of that dreadful scene—a scene which will scarcely bear thinking on; and we should hardly have selected to commemorate the great writer's birth, a play so frightfully and so painfully commemorates his death.—While speaking of French theatricals we may mention, too, the production, at the *Ambigu Comique*, with marked success, of a new play by Frédéric Soulié, entitled 'L'Ouvrier.'

Liszt, whose departure from Vienna we noticed a fortnight since, is at present at Presburg, where he is about to give a series of concerts. The journals of that town are busy in proving, by the publication of old documents, that the great pianist is descended from an ancient and noble family—one of his ances-

tors having been advanced from the dignity of Baron to that of Count, so far back as 1433. It does not clearly appear whether it is offered in proof that his "light-fingered" quality, and his command over keys and bars, are attributes derived from this Baron of the Middle Ages—though that seems the only way in which the statement can be rendered apropos of his brilliant reputation as a pianist. While speaking of Hungary we may mention that the taste for theatricals is daily extending its ground in that country. Letters from Pesth mention the successful representation, in the Royal German Theatre of that city, of Auber and Halévy's opera of 'Guido and Ginevra,' notwithstanding some absurd alterations forced upon the translator by the dramatic censorship. They state, too, that a new theatre has just been erected in Pesth,—which had five in action before: that at Fanfkerchen, a town with less than 8,000 inhabitants, a theatre has recently been built capable of containing 1,500 persons; at Temeswar, which had already a large theatre, a second has been constructed, destined exclusively for opera and ballet: in the little town of Miskolez, near the celebrated vineyards of Tokay, a wing of the Hotel de Ville has been established as a theatre, provisionally, till funds can be obtained for the erection of a permanent one; and at Agram, in Hungarian Croatia, a very fine theatre has recently been built for dramatic representations in the Slavonic tongue, and opened, in November last, with a translation of Casimir Delavigne's 'École des Vieillards,' which has been played twenty-six consecutive nights to overflowing houses. While mentioning the expanding prospects of the drama, it will not be out of place to notice the good fortune which has befallen one of its professors. At the drawing of the Esterhazy lottery, in Vienna, Mdlle. Péche, a very young and very pretty actress, amongst the favourites of that capital, has fallen upon a prize of 40,000 florins (about 4,000*£*. sterling); a piece of good fortune by which she has been so startled that she was unable to fill her accustomed part in the performance of the evening, and the directors of the theatre have been obliged to give her a week's leave of absence, to recover breath.

From the American papers, just received, we learn that Mr. Buckingham, the oriental traveller, and formerly M.P. for Sheffield, is still travelling and lecturing there, and with extraordinary success. At Bangor a meeting was lately held, the mayor in the chair, and the principal clergymen of the town present, to appoint a committee to give public expression to their high estimate of his qualities as a lecturer. And at Boston the ladies presented him with a silver vase, the same which attained the highest premium at the late Mechanics' Fair in that city.

MATCHLESS WORK OF ART in a series of 47 beautiful Models of Ships and Boats, of all rates, so elaborately finished, that the microscope is required to examine the perfection of the workmanship.—**ELECTROTYPE**, or the process of making Copies and Medals, daily a novelty, before three, at the POLYGRAPHIC EXHIBITION, 30, Regent-street. The exhibition consists of Electrical and Magnetic Experiments. Microscope. Pneumatic Telegraph. Operatives in the Hall of Manufactures. Chemical and Philosophical Lecture. Electrotype. Diver and Diving Bell. the Brickmaking Machine invented by Mr. T. Wedgwood. The magnifying glass, &c., &c. are exhibited.—Open at half-past ten, close at half-past four; open for the evening at seven o'clock.—Admission 1*s.* each person.

SPLENDID EXHIBITION—ROYAL GALLERY, ADELAIDE-STREET, LOWTHER ARCADE, WEST STRAND.—Polarization, &c., by M. Guérard's Polarimeter.—Mr. Wilson's Patent Fire-Engine.—The Electric Lamp, &c., &c., &c., in Europe.—Electricity and Magnetism.—Electro-Magnetic Locomotive Engine at work.—Steam-Gun.—Oxy-hydrogen Microscope.—Mr. Robson's Patent Signal Lights shown daily, and immovable other attractive Novelties.—Open daily at 10, A.M.—Admission, 1*s.*

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Dec. 19.—Major Sabine, R.A. V.P., in the chair. A paper was read, entitled, 'An Account of Experiments made with the view of ascertaining the Possibility of obtaining a Spark before the Circuit of the Voltaic Battery is Completed,' by J. P. Gassiot, Esq.—The author of this paper advertises to the fact, of a spark invariably appearing when the circuit of the voltaic battery is completed; an effect which Dr. Faraday has shown can be easily produced, even with a single series. He then refers to the experiments of Mr. Children, Sir Humphry Davy, and Prof. Daniell, recorded in the Philosophical Transactions; in which experiments, when more powerful and extended series were used, the spark was obtained

before contact took place. In order to ascertain, not only the fact of a spark being obtained, but also the distance through which it may be passed, the author had an instrument prepared, which he denominates a *Micrometer Electrometer*, and by which an appreciable space of one five-thousandth of an inch could be measured with great accuracy. He describes this instrument; and relates several experiments which he made with a view to test the correctness of its action. He first prepared 160, and then 320 series of the constant battery, in half-pint porcelain cells, excited with solutions of sulphate of copper and muriate of soda; but although the effects, after the contact had been completed, were exceedingly brilliant, not the slightest spark could be obtained. He was equally unsuccessful with a water battery of 150 series, each series being placed in a quart glass vessel: and also with a water battery belonging to Prof. Daniell, consisting of 1,020 series; but when a Leyden battery of nine jars was introduced into the circuit of the latter, sparks passed to the extent, in one instance, of six five-thousandths of an inch. The author mentions his having been present at the experiment of Prof. Daniell, on the 16th of February, 1839, when that gentleman had 70 series of his large constant battery in action; and having been witness of the powerful effects obtained by this apparatus, he was induced to prepare 100 series of precisely the same dimensions, and similarly excited: but although this powerful apparatus was used under every advantage, and the other effects produced were in every respect in accordance with the extent of the elements employed, still no spark could be obtained until the circuit was completed; even a single fold of a silk handkerchief, or a piece of dry tissue paper, was sufficient to insulate the power of a battery, which, after the circuit had been once completed, fused titanium, and heated 16 feet 4 inches of No. 20 platinum wire. The author then describes a series of experiments made with induced currents. 1,220 iron wires, each insulated by resin, were bent into the form of a horseshoe. A primary wire of 115 feet, and a secondary of 2,268 feet, were wound round the iron wires. With this arrangement he obtained a direct spark (through the secondary current), sufficient to pierce paper, to charge a Leyden jar, &c. Several forms of apparatus employed by the author are next described, and also a series of 10,000 of Jacobone's piles. With this arrangement he charged a Leyden battery to a considerable degree of intensity, and obtained direct sparks of three-fiftieths of an inch in length. He ultimately succeeded in obtaining chemical decompositions of a solution of iodine and potassium: the iodine appearing at the end composed of the black oxide of manganese.

Jan. 9.—J. W. Lubbock, Esq., V.P. and Treasurer, in the chair.

A paper was read, entitled, 'On the Construction and Use of Single Achromatic Eye-Pieces, and their Superiority to the Double Eye-Piece of Huyghens,' by the Rev. J. B. Reade, M.A.—The author observes, that experience has shown it to be impracticable to make a telescope even approach to achromatism by employing the same object-glass with an astronomical, as with a terrestrial eye-piece; for if the focus of the blue rays from the object-glass be thrown forwards, as it must be, in order to make it impinge upon the focus of the blue rays upon the terrestrial eye-glass, then there will be produced a great *over-correction* for the astronomical eye-glass, and *vise versa*. Hence it appears that the application of Huyghenian eye-pieces to refracting telescopes are incompatible with the conditions of achromatism throughout the entire range of magnifying power; and that, in reflecting telescopes, they are incompetent to correct dispersion, because they are not in themselves achromatic. These defects the author proposes wholly to obviate by substituting, for the Huyghenian eye-pieces, single achromatic lenses of corresponding magnifying power, consisting of the well-known combination of the crown, and its correcting flint lens, having their adjacent surfaces cemented together; thus avoiding internal reflections, and enabling them to act as a single lens. The achromatic eye-pieces which he uses were made by Messrs. Tully & Ross, and are of the description usually termed *single cemented triples*.

'Meteorological Observations made between October 1837 and April 1839, at Alten in Finmarken, by Mr. S. H. Thomas, Chief Mining Agent at the

Alten Copper Works; presented by J. R. Crowe, Esq., H.B.M. Consul at Finmarken; communicated by Major E. Sabine, R.A. V.P.—This memoir consists of tables of daily observations on the barometer and thermometer, taken at 9 A.M., 2 P.M., and 9 P.M., with remarks on the state of the weather at Kaafjord, in lat. 69° 58' 3" N., and long. 23° 43' 10" E. of Paris.

J. Whatman, Jun. Esq., was elected, a Fellow. J. Caldecott, Esq., Director of the Observatory at Trevandrum, was proposed as a candidate for election.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Jan. 4.—Prof. Wilson in the chair.

The Secretary read a series of letters from Major Rawlinson, severally dated from Persia, between July 1838 and August 1839, giving an account of his labours and exertions in deciphering and translating the Cuneiform inscriptions at Bisitoun. The result of his researches promises to present, from the most authentic sources, a history of the Persian empire, from the time of Cambyses to the latter end of the reign of Darius: corroborative, in a most satisfactory degree, of the genealogies according to Herodotus, although varying considerably in the narrative. Major Rawlinson details the gradual progress of his discoveries, and the modifications which his first view of the subject had experienced as he improved his acquaintance with the character and language of the inscriptions. He also alludes to the obstacles continually in his way, arising from the very unsettled state of Persia, and to the serious difficulty of copying many of the inscriptions, occasioned by their elevated position, which makes an approach to them in most cases dangerous, and, in some, absolutely impossible without the erection of expensive scaffolding, for which he had neither time nor means. These difficulties were described by Sir Robert Ker Porter, who, with all his efforts, was unable to approach near enough to read the inscriptions, even with a glass. He says,—"At no time can it be attempted without great personal risk," and observed that, even had he been able to draw himself high enough to read them, the transcription would have occupied him more than a month. Major Rawlinson speaks also of the difficulty of understanding the language, which he considers much more allied to the most ancient form of Sanskrit, than to the Veda dialect, than to the language of the Zend Avesta, which, with the religious system contained in it, he brings down to the epoch of the commencement of the Sassanian dynasty. Each column of the inscription comprises ninety-six lines; the first contains the titles and genealogy of Darius, whom it traces through Veshtasp, Arsham, Ariyaremen, Taish-pash, and Hekhamenish, the Hystaspes, Arsamus, Ariaramnes, Teispes, and Achaemenes of Herodotus. It then enumerates the kingdoms subject to Darius, including above twenty provinces, which extended from Ionia, on the west, to the Mekri, the people of the modern Mekran, on the east. The manner in which Darius became possessor of the throne is given with considerable detail, and it affords an interesting subject of comparison with the tales of the Greek and Roman writers on the same subject. Cambyses, of the race of Amakham, had a brother named Berjeye, the Mergis of Justin and Smerdis of Herodotus, whom he slew in battle. On his departure for the conquest of Egypt, the empire was disturbed, and a Magian, named Gumat, declared himself to be the deceased Smerdis, son of Cyrus, and in his name took possession of the empire, in the absence of Cambyses, who died in Egypt about this time. Gumat, after this, attacked the Susians, over whom the deceased Smerdis had formerly been governor. The Susians soon discovered that he was an impostor, and they resisted him in consequence. Soon after, he was recognized by Darius as Gumat, the Magian, and was attacked by him, with the aid of a body of archers, and put to death. Darius, upon this, took possession of the throne. The acts of Darius in his new kingdom are then detailed, among which is particularly his restoring the worship of fire, and re-establishing the fire-altars, which had been desecrated by the Magians. The revolt of Susiana, under Atin, the Otanes of the Greeks, is then related. The inscription goes on to detail the revolt of Babylonian, under Nejetebir, who pretended to be Nebugedrecher (the Nubuchadrezzar of the Bible, see Jeremiah,

xxi. *et seq.*), and was defeated and made prisoner by Darius. The rebellion is given in detail, and continued to the end of the first column, and as much of the second as Major Rawlinson copied. The remainder being a good deal broken, he left it to proceed to the third, which is the most entire of the whole, intending to return to the second column at some future opportunity. The third column continues and concludes an account of the subjugation of Parthia, begun, without doubt, in the second column. Then follows an account of the conquest of Margush (Merv), which is called the eighth conquest of Darius. Next is a long account of the revolt of the province of Persia; which is not concluded, so far as Major Rawlinson has copied this column, that is to say, to the sixty-fifth line; there remain, therefore, thirty-one lines. The fourth column Major Rawlinson fears is wholly illegible, so much of it being obliterated as to leave only detached words. There are three other columns in the Median character, whose position is so difficult that it has baffled all his attempts at reaching them; also, five in the Babylonian character, much defaced; these, no doubt, contain translations of the history now touched upon. There are also several sculptured figures, which are engraved in Sir Robert K. Porter's travels, the inscriptions on which Sir Robert was unable to approach. Four of these Major Rawlinson copied, with great difficulty and danger, being compelled to stand on the topmost step of a ladder, with a precipice of nearly 400 feet below him. The prostrate figure (see Sir R. K. Porter) is that of Gumat the Magian. The next is that of Atin, the usurping monarch of Susa. The inscription on the third statue was not copied; but that on the fourth shows the figure to be Fredwirtish, or Phraortes. The fifth statue is the representation of Chitretekhan, who made himself king of the revolted Sogartii. Further than this Major Rawlinson was unable to go; but he promises himself another visit to the rocks; when he will be better prepared with means to overcome the difficulties he will have to encounter.

At the conclusion of this remarkable paper the Director observed, that it was useless to speculate upon these discoveries until the copies themselves should be brought home; but from what had been communicated, it was evident that the efforts of Major Rawlinson had been eminently successful. The labours of Grotfend, Burnouf, Lassen, and all others who preceded, had been confined to short inscriptions of a few lines only; but the extensive details now found were wholly unparalleled. How far they might be depended upon would be seen hereafter; but he thought there was no reason to doubt their general accuracy. Nothing could be more unpretending than the manner in which this important discovery was announced; and we might venture to look forward with extreme interest, and the best hopes, to the communication of one of the most valuable contributions to ancient oriental history ever made.

GEOLoGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 22.—Rev. Professor Buckland, D.D., President, in the chair.—A paper by Mr. Lyell was read, 'On the Boulder Formation or Drift, and Associated Freshwater Deposits, composing the Mud Cliffs of Eastern Norfolk.'—The line of coast described in this memoir, extends from Hasborough to near Weybourne, west of Cromer, a distance of twenty miles, and was examined by Mr. Lyell in 1829 and 1839. The formations composing the cliffs are not exhibited in regular succession, in any one vertical section, but they consist of chalk, Norwich crag, freshwater deposits, drift mud, and sand, stratified, and unstratified, occupying the great mass of the cliffs, in some places 400 feet high, and superficial accumulations of flint gravel. The point where the order of succession may be best studied, is the neighbourhood of Cromer; but the peculiarities of each deposit are better exhibited at detached points; and it is only by a careful examination of the whole line of coast, and a combining of the features which it presents throughout its range, that the observer is able to arrive at just conclusions respecting its geological structure. In addition, moreover, to the interest connected with the origin and mode of accumulation of the drift, one of the most recent deposits of England, perhaps no other part of our island exhibits evidences of disturb-

ances on so great a scale, and of an equally modern date, for there are proofs in these cliffs of movements, both downward and upward, of strata several hundred feet thick, for an extent of many miles; together with the most complicated bendings and foldings of the beds, also the intercalation of huge masses of chalk; and what is no less perplexing and difficult of explanation, the superposition of contorted upon undisturbed strata. Mr. Lyell describes the structure of the cliffs as it is presented in proceeding from Hasborough to Weybourne; our limits, however, confine us to a general notice of the deposits, and the more striking physical phenomena.

Chalk.—This formation appears occasionally on the shore below the mean level of the tide in horizontal strata; but near Trimingham are three remarkable masses of chalk, which protrude from the lower part of the cliffs, and may be occasionally seen to be continuous with the solid beds extending under the sea. The strata of which they consist, are in some parts highly inclined, and the layers of drift, or of sand, loam, clay, and gravel, in immediate contact with the masses have a similar dip; but as the latter recede, they gradually assume the horizontal position. Mr. Lyell is opinion, that both the chalk and the drift, at this point, have been subject to a common, sudden, or gradual movement, and that the resistance of the solid chalk may have produced the local derangement of the layers of drift. He is farther of opinion, that the three masses probably belong to a nucleus of chalk in the hill behind the cliff, forming Trimingham Beacon, as in Trimingham chalk was found, in making a well, at the depth of only 120 feet, though the face of the cliff is calculated to be 400 feet high. At Overstrand, a little south of Cromer, is an extensive chalk pit, which presents considerable dislocations, and the irregularities in the outline of the solid but inclined strata are filled with alternating beds of chalk, rubble, and gravel, also highly inclined. The cliff along the shore, in front of Overstrand, is composed entirely of drift, but if the progress of destruction continues, it will in time present a face consisting solely of chalk. Near Cromer, and to the north of the town, the drift includes a large quantity of chalk rubble; and huge fragments of chalk are sometimes intercalated in a most singular manner, being wrapped round by layers of sand and clay; but chalk *in situ* is observable in many of these instances, at a short distance inland, and the gradual destruction of the cliffs has proved that the nuclei are only portions of larger masses, which may be connected with the main body of the formation. About three quarters of a mile west of Sheringham, is a remarkable mass of chalk. Upon approaching this point, from the eastward, the horizontal beds of regularly stratified drift become suddenly vertical, and present a wall eighty feet high, resting against a needle of chalk, beyond which is another vertical wall of drift, but of a different composition from that on the east side. A little further, the beds first undulate, and then assume their nearly level position. The junction of the needle of chalk, with the subjacent horizontal beds of the same formation on the shore, is not visible; but Mr. Lyell is of opinion, that there is no connexion. The appearances presented at this locality, and generally along the whole line of coast, vary annually, and the more essential differences noticed by Mr. Lyell, during his second visit, are detailed in the memoir. Other masses or protuberances of chalk occur between Cromer and Lower Runton, and at Upper Runton; and near Cliff-end Weybourne, the fundamental chalk rises above the level of the shore presenting a waved outline, and is covered by a bed of flints mixed with some crag shells.

Norwich Crag.—This deposit is exhibited *in situ* at very low tides near Cromer, resting upon chalk, and forming a bed about two feet thick. In the cliffs between Holdhigh Gap and Weybourne, it attains a thickness of several feet; and at the extreme end of the cliff, near Weybourne, its strata, consisting of sand and gravel, have been bent into an arch. At all these places it contains characteristic fossils. Fragments of crag-shells occur in the drift in many places along the cliffs between Hasborough and Weybourne, and have evidently been derived from the destruction of that formation. Mr. Lyell is also of opinion that many of the mammalian remains found on the coast may be ascribed to a similar origin.

Freshwater Deposits, and Beds of Lignite with Subterranean Forests.—The principal locality for the lignite accumulation, and associated forest, is Hasborough. In 1829, the section presented at this point consisted, in descending order, of sand and loam thirteen feet, till or unstratified clay eight to sixteen feet, laminated sand and clay eighteen inches, —the clay being partly bituminous, and inclosing compressed branches and leaves. At low water there are also exhibited extensive remains of a submerged forest, the stools of the trees being imbedded in peat, in which have also been found fir-cones, and the remains of the elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, horse, ox, and deer. The oyster-bed discovered off this part of the coast, in 1810, has been long celebrated for the teeth and bones of the elephant, and other mammalia, which have been dredged up. A similar bed of lignite, inclosing remains of the elephant, was exposed at Woolot Gap, during the winter of 1838-39, and Mr. Lyell ascertained that a mass of drift, thirty feet thick, must have been removed by the waves before the bed could have been laid bare. Stools of trees have been seen by Mr. Simons, of Cromer, below the cliffs eastward of that town, and on the beach opposite Sidestrand, imbedded in blue clay, which in the former case, at one point, rests upon Norwich crag, and in the latter on chalk. Shells have been found beneath the roots of the trees, but Mr. Lyell has not been able to obtain specimens for examination. Remains of forests occur at other points along the line of coast. From these facts it is evident that the crag, covered partially, at least, with Norwich crag, was overspread with layers of sand and clay, the surface of which was subsequently converted into dry land, on which forest trees grew, and that these were afterwards submerged, and gradually buried beneath the great accumulations of drifted materials composing the cliffs. The freshwater strata are well exhibited at Mundesley, extending horizontally for several hundred yards, and forming the mass of the cliff, from twenty to thirty feet high, with the exception of a capping of gravel. They consist of irregular layers of brown, black, or grey sand and loam, mixed with vegetable matter; and sometimes passing into a kind of peat containing much pyrites. In 1829, a mass of the ordinary unstratified clay of the cliff projected into the freshwater beds in such a manner as to imply contemporaneous origin to the lower part, at least, of both formations; and Mr. Lyell is of opinion that a small river probably flowed at this point, and prevented the accumulation of the drift of the cliffs, but deposited the sediment with which its own waters were charged. The paper contains a list of eleven species of fluviatile testacea, obtained by various collectors, only two of which have not been identified with British shells: also a notice of the remains of insects procured from the same beds, and determined, by Mr. Curtis, to belong to English living species. The scales and other portions of fishes found at Mundesley, have been examined by the Rev. Leonard Jenyns and Mr. Yarrell, and ascertained to be referable to perch, carp, pike, and trout, but not at all identical with fishes inhabiting the waters of our island. Among the vegetable remains the best preserved have been proved, by Mr. R. Brown, to be the seed-vessels of *Ceratophyllum demersum*. At the base of the cliff, near Sidestrand, unios have been found abundantly; and at West Runton Gap, between Cromer and Weybourne, freshwater accumulations occur unquestionably under the drift forming the cliffs, and containing freshwater shells, all of which, with the exception of perhaps two species, still exist in a living state in England. From the position of these fluviatile or lacustrine deposits, the one at Runton being entirely below the drift, and that at Mundesley partly above it, Mr. Lyell is convinced that all the mud cliffs, including the freshwater beds, belong to one period, the relative ages of which, as determined by the shells (two being supposed to be extinct), is that of the newest tertiary. With respect to the mammalian remains, no accurate inference can be drawn of the age of the deposit in which they are found, as it is probable that many of them may have been derived originally from denuded beds of Norwich crag, and inclosed either in the mud cliffs or the layers of peat connected with the submerged forests.

Drift.—This formation, which constitutes the greater portion of the cliffs, Mr. Lyell says, is strictly

analogous in character to that which has been called the "boulder formation," in Denmark and Sweden, and is so remarkable a feature in the superficial geology of Scandinavia, and the countries extending from the shores of the Baltic to the borders of Holland. Throughout this extensive tract, as well as in Norfolk, it is characterized by containing erratic blocks of granite, porphyry, gneiss and other rocks, but their number and dimensions decrease on proceeding from north to south. Mr. Lyell is of opinion that this great formation was accumulated almost exclusively on land permanently submerged, and not by one or many transient rushes of water, over land which had previously emerged; he therefore proposes to substitute the term drift for diluvium, the name by which it has been hitherto generally designated. In Norfolk, and the other counties where it occurs, the formation consists of two descriptions of deposits, one, composed of sand, loam, clay, and gravel, regularly stratified, the other of masses of clay, totally devoid of all lamination or subdivision into beds. The former Mr. Lyell calls "stratified drift," and the latter "till," a word employed in Scotland to express strictly analogous accumulations. Though the structure of each subdivision marks some peculiarity in its origin, yet the stratified drift and the till were in all districts formed contemporaneously, and in mineral composition they are often identical. The only deposits now in progress, known to Mr. Lyell, of precisely similar character to the till, are the terminal moraines of glaciers; and as accumulations of the same nature must take place in these cases, where drift ice, charged with mud, sand, gravel and blocks, melts, and the dense matter is allowed to fall tranquilly to the bottom, so he is induced to infer, that the production of the till may have arisen from the earthy contents of drifted masses of ice. The occasional intercalation of a layer of stratified matter, he explains, by the temporary action of currents during the melting of the icebergs. The "mud-cliffs" commence at the lighthouses near Hasborough, and extend uninterruptedly to Weybourne, but vary in height from 16 to 400 feet. They are occasionally capped by a bed of gravel. The till and the stratified drift are irregularly associated, sometimes ranging in the same level and sometimes alternating. They both contain blocks, and pebbles of almost every variety of rock, and fossils, often beautifully preserved, derived from secondary strata and fragments of Norwich crag shells. The most curious phenomena presented by the cliffs, are the complicated bendings and contortions of the strata, which are sometimes exhibited throughout the whole height of the cliff, but are sometimes of partial extent; and it not unfrequently happens that disturbed beds rest upon strata perfectly horizontal. In many instances the layers are vertical; in others, they form concentric crusts around a nucleus of chalk, sand, and gravel: the diameter of the spheroid being occasionally 25 and in one case 50 feet; and these foldings, with every possible curvature and replication, are often associated within very limited distances. To account for such phenomena, Mr. Lyell admits, is extremely difficult, and he states, that no one mode of action can have produced the whole of them. When the disturbed beds are in the immediate vicinity of protuberances of chalk, as at Trimingham, he is of opinion that an upward movement probably produced the change of position in the beds of drift; and where the curved strata are associated with indications of partial subsidence, he admits that the effects possibly resulted from landslips; and that such subsiding masses, moving over beds of chalk or drift, unoperated upon by the causes which set the superincumbent strata in motion, would, in some instances, explain the superposition of contorted or curved beds upon horizontal. To account, however, for the more complex phenomena of the coiled drift, he proposes an explanation founded on the effects produced by drifting masses of ice on loose materials. During their recent discoveries in the Arctic region, Messrs. Dease and Simpson observed that a long low spit, named Point Barrow, and composed of gravel and coarse sand, and, in some places, more than a quarter of a mile broad, was forced up by the pressure of drifted masses of ice, into mounds which assumed, at a distance, the appearance of huge boulder rocks; and so many instances have come to Mr. Lyell's knowledge of

drifting ice moving forward loose materials, that he has no doubt of its power to produce many of the phenomena exhibited in the Norfolk cliffs. It is, moreover, throughout the boulder districts that the species of disturbance in question is most prevalent. With respect to the masses of solid chalk inclosed in the drift, Mr. Lyell conceives that they may be accounted for, by the action of the sea on the ancient surface of the chalk, before or during the deposition of the drift, and by which needles or pinnacles of chalk would be undermined, thrown down, and subsequently enveloped in drift; he also explains the accumulations of unmixed chalk rubble surrounded by sand, clay, and gravel, by considering them to be the talus of former chalk cliffs, buried up at a later period by drift or till. A portion of the transported blocks contained in the cliffs, Mr. Lyell believes may have been brought into their present position by streams flowing from the westward, but he agrees with Dr. Mitchell in thinking that some of them are possibly the debris of strata which once occupied the position of the German Ocean; the greater blocks he necessarily refers to the region, whence the masses of ice were floated, by which they were conveyed to their present position. Mr. Lyell, in the course of his paper, frequently mentions in terms of commendation, the memoirs of Mr. R. C. Taylor and the late Mr. Woodward.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 20.—H. Hallam, Esq. F.R.S. in the chair. Four new members were elected.

A paper was read, on the Statistics of the parish of St. George the Martyr, in Southwark. By the Rev. George Weight, F.R.A.S.—Some historical notices, more or less statistical, were made, introductory to a mass of numerical facts which Mr. Weight had collected, relating to the social, moral, and religious state of the parish. No map of this parish is known to exist; a fact not more strange and discreditable, than that a resolution was passed at a public vestry, held in the year 1776, "To sell to Mr. Samuel Carter all the parish papers and documents, in a lump, at the rate of three halfpence per pound, he being at the expense of carrying them away." William the Conqueror, shortly subsequent to 1066, presented the parish to the noble family of Arderne, by whom it was given, in 1122, to the Priory of Black Monks of St. Saviour, called "Bermond's Eye in Southwarke," which was founded at the south end of Bermondsey Street, and, in 1539, was abolished by Henry VIII. The figure formed by the boundary line of the parish is remarkably crooked and irregular, and, in the absence of maps and measurement, its area is not ascertainable. Its greatest length is about a mile and three quarters, and its greatest width about half a mile. At the present time it contains 2 squares, 109 streets and roads, and 123 courts and alleys. The total number of the houses is 6,854, and the character of the parish may be estimated from the fact, that of these, only 3,762, or little more than half, are rated, and only 309, or 1 in 12 of the whole number rated, are assessed at a rental exceeding 50*l.* per annum. The great bulk of the inhabitants consists of the middling and lower classes, with a large proportion of needy and disreputable characters. In 1831 the number of houses was 6,607, and the total population 39,769. At present, the population is estimated at 50,000. The census of 1831 shows the excess of females over the males to be one-third less than in the parishes north of the Thames; which is attributable chiefly to the smaller proportion of female servants kept in the parishes of Southwark; for while, in St. George's Hanover Square, the average was nearly one to each family, in St. George's Southwark, it was only one to more than seven families. At the same period, the number of families was 9,133, of which 5,019 were employed in trade, manufacture, and manual labour, 42 in agriculture, and 4,122 in miscellaneous employments. The oldest parish records are the minutes of the vestry, dated 1560; and the date of the oldest register of births, deaths, and marriages, is March 1602. From these documents it appears that the plague, in 1603, increased the annual deaths from 215 to 928; in 1625 this rose, from the same appalling cause, from 296 to 1,464; and again, in 1665, from 179 they increased to 1,413.

An extensive section of this parish is called "The

Mint," which at present is attracting public attention as having been the principal scene of the exploits of the notorious Jack Sheppard. His equally notorious companion, Jonathan Wild, whose residence was next to the Cooper's Arms in the Old Bailey, kept his horses at the Duke's Head public-house, which is still standing, in Redcross-street, within this district called the Mint. On the site of a distillery, opposite St. George's Church, was the palace of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, the husband of Mary, sister of Henry VIII., and widow of Louis XII. In 1545 this princely edifice was converted by Henry VIII. into a royal Mint, which is shortly afterwards found designated as the "capital mansion, gardens, and park, in Southwarke." The Mint was given by Queen Mary to Nicholas Hett, Archbishop of York, who sold it. It was subsequently taken down, and upon its site and surrounding grounds were erected numerous mean and irregular dwellings. In 1697 their number was 92. In 1830 they amounted to 1,712. The neighbourhood of the Mint, even as early as the time of Edward VI., had become an asylum for debtors, felons, fugitives, rogues, outlaws, and vagabonds of every description—an "Alsatia" excelling in notoriety that of which Scott has given a vivid picture in his "Fortunes of Nigel." The herding of disreputable persons at length increased to such an extent in St. George's and the adjacent parishes, as to require the interference of the legislature, which, by statutes of the 8th and 9th years of William III. and 9th and 11th of George I., ordered the abolition of this social nuisance. Parts of the Mint locality are exceedingly wretched and filthy, and are inhabited by a poor and profligate population. From a very minute inquiry into the state of this district, instituted in Dec. 1830, there were found to be 28 streets, 55 courts and alleys, 1,712 houses, 3,169 families, and 4,563 children; 521 of whom were receiving some degree of instruction in Sunday schools, and 4,042, that is eight-ninths, appeared to be destitute even of that advantage. The parish contains eleven public lodging-houses for the poor, nine of which are in the district of the Mint. On an average, each house in winter shelters 70 persons, and in summer about 30. The usual charge to each person is three-pence for the 24 hours, for which they are supplied with a room, fire, candle, cooking apparatus, bed, &c. The houses are open from 5 in the morning until 12 at night. Two persons lie in a bed, and all are required to rise before 10 o'clock in the morning. Each room contains about 7 beds, well supplied with blankets, which, to prevent mistakes by the lodgers, are stamped in several places with the name and address of the owners. Married people have rooms separate from the unmarried, and single women are professedly not admitted as lodgers. The men are generally labourers at the wharfs on the Thames, or sailors, pedlars, and cabmen. All pay for their lodgings every day: some have been lodging at these houses from 4 to 8 years. In the whole of these lodging-houses, were found 24 Bibles and Testaments, and 3 persons who belonged to the Temperance society. Kent Street, so called, from its having formed the great road to the county of Kent, is, like the Mint, a wretched and profligate part of the parish. In 1633, it was described as "very long and ill built, and inhabited chiefly by broom-men and mumpers." To these may now be added thieves, prostitutes, and various other disreputable characters. Some antiquarians believe, that along this street Julius Caesar conducted his Roman army, when he forded the Thames at Bankside, and landed at Dowgate, on his invasion of London. The part of the parish called St. George's Fields, formed the centre of several Roman roads, and was probably the site of a Roman camp, as numerous Roman coins and bricks have been found here, with inscribed bones, tessellated pavements, &c. In High Street, too, opposite the Redcross Inn, a mass of Roman remains have been excavated, consisting of various utensils, cinerary and other urns, patera, Samian pottery, coins, &c. Also, at the west end of King Street, have been found Roman sepulchral terra cotta lamps, articles of dress, and ornaments. Many of these remains are preserved in the collection of Mr. G. Gwilt, in Union Street. St. George's parish contains two prisons—1. The Marshalsea, which took its appellation from having been originally under the control of the Knight Marshal of the Royal Household. It was instituted for receiving and trying the causes of the king's domestic servants. The persons now confined in it are pirates and debtors. It contains 60 rooms, and a chapel. 2. The Queen's Bench, for the confinement of debtors. It contains 224 rooms, each about 15 feet by 13. Within the walls, are several shops, and a tolerably good market. The number of prisoners formerly, has been sometimes 500; at present, the establishment is nearly empty. For the privilege of "The Rules," debtors pay 10 guineas for 100*l.*, and 5 guineas for each additional 100*l.* for which they are in custody. Liberty to leave the prison may be purchased for 3 days, at the rate of 4*s. 2d.* for the first, and 3*s. 10d.* each for the second and third days, good security being given to the marshal that the prisoners will not decamp. The annual income of the marshal was stated by a Parliamentary Committee in 1815 to be 3,590*l.*; of which 872*l.* arose from the sale of beer, and 823*l.* from the sale of the privilege of the Rules. The Lock Hospital in this parish was formerly an important establishment. It was first instituted by Edward the Third, about 1347, for persons afflicted with the leprosy, and was taken down 40 years ago. There is one parish church, and 5 Church of England chapels; but the latter belong to the charitable institutions or prisons, and can therefore be considered as affording accommodation only very partially to the parishioners in general. The whole number of free sittings in the chapels and church is 1,558; the population of the parish being at least 45,000, as already observed. The numerous occasional, or, as they are usually and technically called, *surplus* duties, of the entire parish, are performed almost wholly by the two curates of the rector. In 1839, the number of baptisms was 638, marriages 328, and burials 503. It is also worthy of remark, that in an extensive parish, of which the population is for the most part indigent, and consequently unhealthy, the clerical visitation of the sick is a very serious and laborious duty. Various denominations of dissenters have 20 chapels in the parish, containing 2,728 sittings—of these, 2,728 are free to the public. In the parish church of St. George are entombed the remains of Thomas Cocker, the author of the once famous, and yet often-mentioned school-book, "Cocker's Arithmetic." The information respecting the number of persons able to read is incomplete as to the entire parish. The following facts, however, were ascertained: that, of 3,870 adults who were visited, 2,327 could read, and 1,542, or forty per cent, were wholly unable to read. Among the same number, 1,218, or thirty-one per cent, possessed no copy of the Scriptures. In the whole parish, there are 4 day schools, supported or aided by public charity, and containing 1,605 schools, and 9 Sunday schools, attended by 2,050. The day schools consist of St. George's National School, containing 405; the Central British and Foreign School, which is only accidentally connected with the parish, and contains 850; a Roman Catholic school, containing 180, and an Infant school attended by 160. Of the Sunday schools, those of the Church of England are attended by 207 children, and those belonging to various dissenting sects contain 1,843. The Southwark Literary Society, in Bridge House Place, was established in 1832. It numbers at present 300 members, who pay each 30*s.* a year, for which they receive about forty lectures, and have the use of a library of 4,000 volumes. Evening Classes for learning the modern languages and for discussion meet thrice in the week. Much benefit is produced by the operations of this society in the improvement of knowledge and morality; but it is not supported, as it ought to be, by the more highly educated and wealthy classes. From a series of numerical details respecting the different classes of vicious and criminal characters, it appears that the population of this parish exhibits far more than the average prevalence of vice and depravity and destitution. This, indeed, has been its distinctive character for several centuries. Thieves, rogues, vagabonds, and prostitutes of every class form a large portion of the inhabitants, and the places for the resort, maintenance, and accommodation of such vicious and dangerous characters are especially numerous. The known number of thieves of different kinds and grades is stated to be 160; known prostitutes 320; houses dwelt in or resorted to by prostitutes, 158; known vagrants and disturbers of the public peace,

195. In short, it is shown that 693 notoriously bad characters are known to reside in the parish, that is, 1 to 33 of the whole number of adult inhabitants. There are 13 inns, 91 public houses, and 44 shops for the sale of beer. No savings' bank has been instituted, but there are 7 provident clubs and friendly societies. The parish is remarkable for the number of charitable institutions which are contained within it, without otherwise belonging to it, namely, the Bethlem Royal Hospital, the House of Occupation, the Magdalene Hospital, the Philanthropic Society, the School for the Indigent Blind, the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, the Royal Free-masons' school, the schools of the Yorkshire Society, and the Fishmongers' Almshouses. Among the parish institutions are the Surrey and South London Dispensaries, and the Rev. Rowland Hill's, Draper's, and Hedger's Almshouses. Numerical accounts were given of all these establishments, and of the present prices of all the usual articles of domestic consumption. The paper concluded with the expression of a hope that the facts which had been developed would serve to direct the attention of the parochial authorities, and of the higher class of inhabitants, to the disgraceful and dangerous prevalence of destitution, irreligion, depravity and wretchedness.

Mr. Rowland Hill, at the request of the meeting, then stated some interesting results of the operation of the system of Penny Postage, but, instead of reporting amounts stated from memory, in round numbers, and avowedly only as conversational approximations to the exact truth, it will be preferable to wait for the forthcoming parliamentary document on this important subject.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SAT.	Westminster Medical Society	Eight, P.M.
MON.	Geographical Society	Nine.
	Lithological Society (<i>Annual</i>)	Eight.
TUES.	Architectural Society	Eight.
WED.	Zoological Society (<i>Sci. Bus.</i>)	Half past Eight.
THUR.	Society of Arts	Half past Seven.
	Royal Society	Half past Eight.
FRI.	Numismatic Society	Seven.
	Society of Antiquaries	Eight.
	Royal Institution	Half past Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—M. LAPORTE most respectfully begs leave to submit to the Nobility and Subject of the Queen his Plan for the new THEATRE to be erected for the season 1830. The THEATRE will OPEN in the middle of February, when will be produced (for the first time in this country) Donizetti's Opera, entitled TORQUATO TASSO, in which Mademoiselle Elmeline Tosi (from the principal Theatres in Italy) and Signor Mazzetti (the eminent French Basso from Lismore) will sustain the principal parts.—Her which will have survived, the favourite Ballet, LES PAGES DU VENDOME, in which Monsieur Breton and Mademoiselle Albertine (from the Opera, in Paris,) will make their first appearance.—In addition to other new Dances, an increased and selected company, composed of the best Performers, Madame Pierson, Copere, Briestoff, D'Orgville, Galbi, E. Madelaine, Duxy, D'Estries, Maria, Desjardins, Delanney, &c. &c.—In the first week in March, Mademoiselle Fanny Elsler, who is also engaged, will appear in a new Ballet, now performing without beat music, in Paris, called LE CLOCHARD, which will be followed after Madama Persiani will arrive in town, when, in addition to her well-known range of characters, Bellini's admired Opera, called BEATRICE DI CASTRO, now performing with immense success in Paris.—The principal parts by Madame Persiani, Signor Bellini, and Signor G. Grimaldi, and Miss G. Green, under the terms of her engagement, is to leave Paris, for London, on the 1st of April, will also appear in two new Operas, highly successful Italy, are the IL GIURAMENTO and IL BRAVO, by Veratti.—On the 15th of April, Mademoiselle Persiani will arrive in town, when a new Ballet, composed by M. Filippo Taglioni, and which has created the greatest sensation at the Imperial Theatre, St. Petersburg, will be put in preparation, and produced with all possible speed, under the title of L'OMBRE.

The success which attended Signor Mario's appearance during the last season, in the character of the Duke of Mantua, in a portion of the present; and the answer of his manager, in Paris, is hourly expected; which will regulate the exact period of his "conge," and determine upon other arrangements.—The most minute attention will be paid to the improvements already effected in the THEATRE.—The Ball, which was last year, previous seasons was raised to the highest point of perfection, will comprise the same power which, in former years, were its distinguished features. Director of the Music, Composer, and Conductor, Signor Costa.—Negociations are pending with Mademoiselle Persiani, and Signor G. Grimaldi, to ascertain whether they will bring about a satisfactory termination, dependent, however, upon his being able to offer in one opera the extraordinary union of the three first talents in the world.—Other arrangements are in progress, the result of which will be announced previously to the opening.—Applications for Boxes, Stalls, and Tickets, to be made at the Box-office, Opera-Colonade, from eleven till five.

M. THALBERG'S LAST PERFORMANCE will be at Mr. BENEDICT'S MUSICAL SOIREE at the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS, FRIDAY, February the 7th, 1830. Vocalists: Mad. Stock, Miss May, Miss Weston, Miss Achard, Mrs. Tatting, Miss Masson, and Mrs. Hayes, Signor Ernesto Tatting, Signor Brizzi, and F. Lablache, Messrs. J. Bennett and J. Parry, jun.—Violin, Mr. Blagrove; Violoncello, Mr. Lucas; guitar, Mr. L. Schultz—Conductor, Signor Costa. In addition to the above entertainment, Miss De Varney, from the Academie Royal, Paris, will make her first appearance in London, on Saturday, Feb. 11th, Tickets, 10s. 6d.; to be had at all the principal Music Warehouses; and of Mr. Benedict, 8, Bruton-street.

DRURY LANE.—‘Mary Stuart,’ an historical tragedy, is altogether a misnomer: it should be ‘The Death of Rizzio,’ a musical melo-drama—for the Queen of Scots is a subordinate character, and Rizzio not only plays on the harp, but sings a song into the bargain: indeed, the plot seems to have been constructed on the approved principle of the “libretto” manufacturers for opera; and we could not help fancying what a fine bass part *Ruthven* would have made, leading a “chorus of conspirators,” with the Queen's soprano shrieks heard shrill above the dirge of her favourite. But though Mr. Elton surprised the public with a display of vocal powers that would be by no means contemptible in a drawing-room, and twanged the harp in a style that raised doubts among the audience whether he was playing by proxy or no, the interest in his fate was not heightened by this “swan-like end;” on the contrary, some mirth was created, which, however, was repressed by the appearance of *Ruthven* in a complete suit of real polished steel armour, at the head of the conspirators; and, by way of clinching the catastrophe, *Ruthven*, after he had despatched *Rizzio*, comes on and dies too, doubtless from over-exertion. The splendid burst of bombast which appropriately concludes the “tragedy,” coupled with the rattle of the armour, drew down vociferous applause; and we left the people calling for all the performers, *seriatim*. Notwithstanding these noisy demonstrations, we cannot flatter the author or the manager with a hope of its success. All the parts were creditably filled: Mrs. Warner, as *Mary Stuart*, alternately laughed and lectured, sobbed and scolded; and Macready, as *Ruthven*, looked gaunt and grisly—and, whether in *articulo mortis*, or in a high state of energetic excitement, displayed equal vigour; and Phelps, as *Darnley*, though he could not help looking manly, played the peevish boy as ludicrously as the author required him. Miss E. Montague is introduced as the daughter of *Ruthven*, in order to give a sentimental air to the severity of historical incidents, by representing her as dying for love of *Rizzio*; but so secret is her passion, that neither the dramatis persona nor the audience are aware of its existence, till her very sudden death leads them to infer the cause. The dialogue abounds with tropes more ingenious than felicitous: in aiming at epigrammatic point of expression, however, the author is more successful than in his higher flights, where he soars not only to the sublime but beyond it. The squabbles between *Mary* and *Darnley*, *Rizzio* and his enemies, are of a very homely sort; and though *Ruthven*'s sarcastic speeches are effective, it is at the expense of courtly decorum and probability. The costumes are handsome and appropriate, and the scenery is in good keeping.—“Macbeth” was produced, on Monday, in a similar style, and with as effective a cast as at Covent Garden last season. The two operas, announced for Friday and Saturday last, were postponed by the simultaneous indisposition of the two principal female vocalists; though the exertions required to produce the two tragedies would have been as valid a reason.

COVENT GARDEN.—‘The Clandestine Marriage’ has been added to the revivals of comedy, and it is almost needless to say it is got up in the most perfect style, as far as scenery, costume, and accessories are concerned. Farren’s *Lord Ogleby* is an elaborately finished stage-portrait of a superannuated coxcomb of the last century. Mrs. Heidelberg (the prototype of *Mrs. Malaprop*) is played by Mrs. C. Jones in a glorious style of exaggeration, and we only regretted that Mrs. Orger and Mrs. Humby had so little to do. Mrs. Nisbett as *Miss Sterling* was hardly malicious enough for that odious character; and the young lovers, personated by Mr. G. Vandenhoff and Mrs. Walter Lacy, failed to excite any sympathy. F. Matthews, as *Old Stirling*, being the substitute for Bartley, and Bland an apology for the want of a fitting performer of *Canton*, may claim exemption from censure; while Mr. T. Green, as *Brush*, deserves a word of praise.

PISA.—Signor G. Molini, of Florence, who is seeking Italian documents in the Parisian libraries, has found, in the *Bibliothèque du Roi*, a chronicle of Pisa, ending in the year 1175, and written in a curious mixture of Italian and Latin. This is valuable to philologists, as showing the mode in which the Italian language was formed—a *quaestio vexata*.

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